

Yael Dayan wants PLO talks now

TUNIS (R) — Left-wing Israeli legislator Yael Dayan said Sunday after meeting Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials that Israel should begin negotiations now with the PLO. "There is only a very short time left for (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to make peace, and therefore immediate talks between the two sides should start without delay," she said in Tunis. The Israeli Labour Party deputy is the daughter of the late Israeli general and Defence Minister Moshe Dayan. She is one of the most outspoken Israeli advocates for talks with the PLO. Ms. Dayan, in Tunis with Abdul Wahab Darawshe, an Israeli-Arab member of parliament, met top Arafat aides Mohammad Abbas and Yasser Abed Rabbo Friday. Mr. Arafat, whom both had met before, was not in Tunis during their visit. "I have never been so optimistic as far as my discussions with PLO officials are concerned," Ms. Dayan told Reuters. But she said the PLO is "intransigent" as far as the future of Jerusalem is concerned. Ms. Dayan was due to leave on Monday for Cairo. She said she expected to hold talks with Osama Al Baz, an adviser to President Hosni Mubarak.

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King to visit Turkey

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein will pay an official three-day visit to Turkey beginning Sunday, diplomatic sources said here Sunday.

The source said the King will fly to Turkey from France after talks with French President Francois Mitterrand and other French leaders.

The King is scheduled to arrive in Paris Thursday from London, where he is on a private visit which began July 9.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, who is currently visiting Jordan (see page 10), told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that the King's visit to Turkey would offer a good opportunity for the monarch to discuss with Turkish President Suleiman Demirel bilateral relations, the Middle East peace process and regional issues.

Jordan hopes U.S. bid will be positive

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Sunday expressed hope that the upcoming visit to the Middle East by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher would give a new momentum to the Middle East peace process. "Mr. Christopher's seriousness and determination to play an active role as a full partner in the peace talks," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan said. "Therefore, Jordan is happy to welcome him, and places a lot of importance on the key U.S. role in giving a new push to the course of peace," he told reporters while waiting at the airport for Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin to arrive (see page 10). Mr. Christopher arrives in the region on July 31 to try and help the 21-month-old Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

U.N. base hit in Sarajevo shelling

SARAJEVO (R) — A United Nations military base in Sarajevo was hit by a major shelling attack Sunday just hours after the latest Bosnian ceasefire came into force, witnesses said. Burning vehicles, some still with their engines running, were abandoned during the attack. There was no immediate information on casualties. The shells hit facilities of the U.N. Protection Force at the Zetra Olympic stadium in the besieged Bosnian capital. One armoured personnel carrier, carrying its ammunition, was left burning by the attack. Many other vehicles were damaged. The U.N.-brokered ceasefire between the warring Serbs, Muslims and Croats in Bosnia was intended to come into force at 10 a.m. (0800 GMT) Sunday but within hours each faction had accused the others of violating the accord (see page 8).

Confidence in Balladur rises

PARIS (R) — Public confidence in conservative French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur's government has risen to its highest level since April, an opinion poll released on Sunday showed. The CSA Institute poll for the daily Le Parisien showed 57 per cent of voters said they trusted the centre-right government to deal effectively with the main problems facing France, compared to 25 per cent who did not. Eighteen per cent expressed no view. The confidence figure showed a five percentage point rise from the last poll in late June.

Bomb injures 4 at Istanbul tourist site

ISTANBUL (R) — A bomb planted at a tourist site in central Istanbul exploded prematurely Sunday, injuring an Italian tourist and three people believed to have planted it, the Anatolian news agency reported. Police, quoted by the agency, said the bomb had been left in a litter basket under an automated bank teller machine near the sixth century Hagia Sophia Cathedral. Kurdish separatist rebels kidnapped four French tourists in southeast Turkey Sunday but it was not immediately clear whether the bomb was connected to PKK threats to attack Turkish tourist sites (see page 2).

Israel unleashes air power on Lebanon

6 Syrian soldiers among 11 dead; rocket attacks kill two Israelis

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI warplanes blitzed resistance bases in Lebanon Sunday in a massive reprisal operation which killed at least 11 people, including six Syrian soldiers, and wounded around 50.

Guerrillas responded by unleashing salvos of Katyusha rockets on northern Israel, where two people were killed and several wounded, and the Israeli-occupied "security zone."

Israel launched the raids against positions held by the Hizbollah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) in reprisal for attacks which have left seven of its soldiers dead since July 8.

"All options are open in Lebanon until calm is restored to the northern border of Israel," Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned on Israel Radio from northern Israel.

But he refused to say if infantry troops would be deployed north of the "security zone" to follow up the raids, unprecedented in scope since the end of Israel's Lebanon war in 1985.

Syria said its anti-aircraft batteries had opened up against the Israeli raids which left six of its soldiers dead and four wounded.

"Israeli aircraft carried out attacks on civilian targets in several regions of Lebanon, including several where our forces are based," said the spokesman quoted by the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA).

"Our anti-aircraft defences went into action against the attacking Israeli planes," he said, adding that two of its soldiers were killed and a third wounded. Other reports said six Syrian soldiers were killed.

Damascus Radio warned that the attacks could derail U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's imminent peace mission to the area.

It called on Israel to put an "immediate stop" to what it called "brutal and cruel" attacks on Lebanon.

Israel "must stop its attacks on Lebanon, and start withdrawing from the occupied Arab territories, including southern Lebanon, to ensure Christopher's mission is not derailed," the radio added.

In a first wave of attacks fighter bombers pounded at least 10 guerrilla bases in Lebanon, all but one aimed at Hizbollah.

Helicopters also went into action, firing missiles at a PFLP-GC base — where 12 people were trapped when a tunnel collapsed — and a string of villages.

Guerrillas ignored warnings from Israel of further attacks and retaliated by firing salvos of Katyusha rockets.

Dozens of rockets hit a northern Israeli border town killing two civilians and wounding seven more, hospital sources said.

Two people had been slightly hurt in daylight salvos of Katyusha rockets but after dark a large number of rockets landed in Kyriat Shimona, military sources said.

The rockets also damaged buildings, military radio said.

People living along the border region had been ordered into bomb shelters as a precaution when the Israeli air raids began in the morning.

Before nightfall some 50 rockets had already slammed into Israel in several salvos, chief of staff Ehud Barak told a press conference in Tel Aviv.

"We expect many rockets tonight and the following night," Lieutenant-General Barak told reporters as the news of dead and wounded came in from the north.

An Israeli corporal, wounded by mortar fire in southern Lebanon a week ago, became on Sunday the seventh Israeli soldier to die from guerrilla attacks in Lebanon this month, a military spokesman said.



A frightened Lebanese mother and her children take shelter during Sunday's Israeli air strikes on Lebanon (AFP photo)

A total of 14 Israelis have now died in Lebanon this year compared with 13 for the whole of 1992.

Sunday's rocket attacks triggered fresh Israeli raids.

Helicopter gunships and warplanes carried out follow-up raids on the PFLP-GC base south of Beirut, and helicopters blasted a guerrilla headquarters of PLO

Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fateh faction in 'Ain Helweh refugee camp near Sidon, security sources said.

Police said five Syrian soldiers were killed and three wounded when planes struck Mashghara village, the southernmost Syrian post in Lebanon and a stronghold

(Continued on page 10)

Iraq accuses U.S. of seeking crisis as U.N. team flies in

Combined agency dispatches

BAGHDAD — Iraq Sunday accused the United States of seeking to spark a new crisis with an attack in the southern "no-fly" zone as three U.N. arms inspectors, all Americans, flew in to install surveillance cameras.

The Ministry of Information denied Washington's account of an attack that an Iraqi radar targeted U.S. planes and that missiles were fired from an Iraqi anti-aircraft battery.

It also insisted no Iraqi missile site was hit stopped short of denying a U.S. warplane and opened fire late Saturday. The U.S. pilot who reported the incident, it charged, was "either hallucinating or certain parties in the American administration are trying, as usual, to create a crisis for well-known political purposes."

Baghdad also protested against "violations" of its airspace by U.S. aircraft.

In a letter to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, Iraq hit out at the "continuing violations" of its airspace "by American planes engaged in provocation and spying," the official Iraqi News Agency reported.

Baghdad claimed to have recorded 580 "hostile missions" by U.S. planes over northern and southern Iraq between July 13 and July 19.

Baghdad announced a unilateral ceasefire in January and vowed not to attack allied warplanes patrolling the skies of southern and northern Iraq, where Iraqi aircraft are banned.

In Washington, the Pentagon said earlier that a U.S. fighter patrolling the southern "no-fly" zone fired a missile at a missile site. Another site fired back, without success, it said, quoting the pilot.

The F-4G "Wild Weasel" attacked with a Harrier missile after an Iraqi radar locked onto it, Pentagon spokesman Colonel Dave Garner said. The missile reportedly hit its target.

On June 26, the United States bombed an intelligence complex in Baghdad in retaliation for an alleged plot to kill former U.S. President George Bush during an April trip to Kuwait. Six civilians were killed.

Three days later, a U.S. F-4G fighter jet fired a missile at an Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery site in southern Iraq after two aircraft were illuminated by Iraqi radar.

Asked about the latest incident, U.N. arms team leader Bill Eckert said it had not affected the start of his mission to install six cameras at two missile test sites.

Iraq has gone back on its refusal to allow the cameras, marking the "possible start of a new era," Mr. Eckert said. His team were to join technical experts already in Iraq in what he said was "the first concrete step."

We look forward to the cooperation of the government of Iraq in doing this job," he told reporters.

"The cameras will not be activated except for maintenance during the interim period," Mr. Eckert said. "In late August for early September the question of

activation will be covered in technical talks between Iraq and the special commission that will take place in New York City."

That delay is part of the compromise worked out between the U.N. and Iraq.

The United Nations camera team met Iraqi officials immediately upon landing at Habbaniya airport near Baghdad. Another session was scheduled Sunday night.

"Technical literature about the cameras have already been given to Iraqi officials," Mr. Eckert said. "The system is standard commercial technology, similar to what is used by many banks."

Iraq has argued that it is in compliance with U.N. resolutions calling for the elimination of its weapons of mass destruction. It has sought concessions, such as an easing of the worldwide embargo imposed since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, before long-term monitoring provisions are put in force.

The cameras are to be installed at the yamm Al Azim and Al Rafah test sites, about 75 kilometres south of Baghdad, to ensure Iraq does not try to develop long-range missiles.

The Defence Department statement issued in Washington did not give the location of the missile site which it said was fired on Saturday, except to say it was in the eastern part of the "no-fly" zone.

The "no-fly" zone, proclaimed by then-President Bush in August 1992, starts at the 32nd Parallel, about 140 kilometres south of Baghdad.

Regent: Unemployment needs deep-rooted solution

AMMAN (Petra) — The unemployment problem in Jordan cannot be solved through institutional support but needs providing radical and comprehensive solutions to develop the society on the national level and improve the economic situation, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Sunday.

The Regent, addressing a workshop on developing education and vocational and technical training in Jordan at a newly-opened teachers' club in Irbid, paid tribute to Jordan's "unknown soldiers" — the Kingdom's workers and technicians — "who perform their duty silently," and called for their participation in specialised workshops so that they could be acquainted with the situation.

"We could hear from them of the difficulties they face and of their aspirations so that we could provide for them the support and the motive for the development of Jordan," he said.

The Regent also voiced appreciation for the role of Jordanian women, who he said were carrying out their national duties, particularly in agriculture.

"It is an important and appreciated role, but it has not been properly recognised so far," the Regent said.

Earlier, the Regent opened the teachers' club in a ceremony attended by Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki, Minister of Education and Higher Education Khaled Al Omari, and several other members of the Council of Ministers.

Iraq protests Iranian shelling of Kurdistan

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq protested Sunday to the Iranian government over the latter's recent attacks on Kurdish targets in the north and accused the United States of maintaining a state of chaos in the region.

The Foreign Ministry handed the Iranian charge d'affaires a note hitting out at the "acts of aggression" between June 22 and July 15 and called on Tehran to halt them, the official Iraqi News Agency reported.

It said Iraq reserved the right to claim damages and take necessary measures to defend its sovereignty.

On Thursday, the Iranian army

attacked a village in Iraqi Kurdistan near the Iraqi-Iranian border.

The Iraqi memorandum strongly criticised the July 13 visit of an official Iranian delegation to Iraqi Kurdistan, which is not under central government control, saying it constituted "interference in Iraq's internal affairs."

In a related development, an Iraqi daily on Sunday accused the United States of allowing the Iranian army to attack Kurdish villages in the north, leading to a state of chaos.

"When this region was under

(Continued on page 10)

Jordan condemns Israeli aggression, urges U.N. action

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali said Sunday the escalation in Israeli military operations against Lebanon, whether in volume or the types of weapons used and the rise in the numbers of victims and human material losses were a cause of deep concern for Jordan.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Majali said the continuation of Israel's "aggressive operations against Lebanon undermines stability and security in the whole region."

adding that developments in the situation affect the political and psychological position which hampers the peace process, particularly at this crucial and critical stage.

He said the timing of these operations, which come ahead of a visit to the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, will be an obstacle to the success of his mission.

Jordan, he added, calls on the U.N. Security Council to take a firm stand to stop the continuation of the aggression against the Lebanese people.

Earlier, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan said Sunday the Israeli strikes in Lebanon could harm the Middle East peace talks.

"We, in Jordan, condemn such attacks which do not serve the peace talks and negatively affect them," Mr. Hassan told reporters.

In Washington, the State Department called for restraint and urged Middle Eastern countries to rely on peace negotiations to settle differences. Lebanon has warned that a large Israeli offensive would endanger the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

In Singapore, Mr. Christopher expressed concern over the clashes and urged restraint.

Mr. Christopher called on all sides "to show restraints in that situation."

"The violence is clearly counterproductive as far as the peace process is concerned," Mr. Christopher is on his way to the Middle East to reactivate the regional peace process.

"I want to emphasise that it is this because of violence such as that we are pursuing urgently and aggressively the peace process," Mr. Christopher said.

The Arab League condemned the Israeli air attacks and accused Israel of jeopardising the peace process.

The League, in a statement issued from its Cairo headquarters, "strongly condemned" the Israeli air raids and demanded the immediate implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for Israel's withdrawal from South Lebanon.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, who is currently visiting Jordan (see page 10), called on Israel to withdraw from Lebanon.

"They have to withdraw from Lebanon," Mr. Cetin told reporters. "All of us have to contribute to the peace process."

Anti-peace talks deputies seek to step up campaign

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Deputies opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace talks are turning up the pressure on the government in a bid to force it to abandon what they call "the surrender talks which would only strip the Arabs of more of their rights."

Thirty-one Muslim Brotherhood, independent Islamist and leftist legislators Sunday formed a committee to translate what one deputy referred to as the wide public opposition to the talks into an active lobbying group that would pressure the government into dropping the 21-month-old negotiations.

The deputies, who a month ago issued a strong statement against the talks, formed the committee during an informal meeting called for by the 23-strong Muslim Brotherhood parliamentary bloc.

Thirty-four deputies signed the statement. Parliamentarians who did not sign it were not invited to the meeting.

The Muslim Brotherhood-dominated committee will form a parliamentary anti-peace talks front and ask for the help of political activists and "the people" in urging the government to withdraw from the peace negotiations, spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhood bloc Ibrahim Khreisat told the Jordan Times after the meeting, which took place at the Parliament building.

The Muslim Brotherhood bloc is the staunchest opponent of the talks in the 80-member Lower House of Parliament and has repeatedly urged the government

to withdraw from the negotiations.

The anti-talks campaign would include speeches, rallies, lectures and other similar activities which Brotherhood Deputy Hammam Sa'id hoped the people would support.

"It is the first time that we ask the people to express their views on (the peace talks) and we hope they would support the call," Dr. Sa'id said.

Dr. Sa'id stopped short of admitting that the government would not heed the demand to drop the talks, but said that what matters is that deputies fulfil "their responsibilities" towards the people.

"We are doing our duty, which on itself is an achievement. It does not matter whether the government responds or not because what we are doing is something for which we are responsible before the people," Dr. Sa'id said.

Dr. Sa'id dismissed as untrue interpretations that the campaign represents an electioneering bid by the Brotherhood to boost its image ahead of the country's next parliamentary elections, scheduled for November this year.

The anti-talks campaign is "a word of truth that might not receive the support of all. It might not lead to gains," he said.

Mr. Khreisat said the campaign was an effort to stop "the surrender" process.

"The future of the nation is in a very grave danger and the talks would take from the Arabs what remains of what they have of their rights," said Dr. Sa'id. The campaign is to stop that, he said.

Jordan, PLO agree on confederation but differ on approach

By Wafa Amr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agree that a confederation is the most ideal relationship between Jordan and the Palestinians, but Amman and the PLO leadership are expressing the same idea in different languages.

While Jordan has consistently maintained that it is too early to discuss the confederation proposal before the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations produce concrete results, senior PLO officials, including Chairman Yasser Arafat, have sought to renew attention on

the issue after letting it dormant for over one year now.

Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying in reports from Yemen Saturday that Jordan and the PLO had already signed an agreement on confederal relations, but Jordanian officials deny the existence of such an accord.

Notwithstanding the fact that there cannot be a middle ground between the two arguments — "either there is an agreement or there isn't one," as one analyst put it — political observers view this "variation" in positions as a reflection of

the visions of each side on future relations and the motives and objectives sought from such a future union.

The Palestine National Council (PNC) decided as far back as 1984 that a future Palestinian state should have confederal ties with Jordan after the Palestinians regain their right to self-determination.

In recent comments, Mr. Arafat and senior PLO officials as well as the leadership of the mainstream Fatch group have emphasised this point and said that a confederation should be the result of the natural choice of the two people after a peace agreement is signed with Israel.

In his comments reported Saturday, Mr. Arafat said that "there is a written agreement between the PLO and the Jordanian government on this issue."

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Mr. Arafat was apparently referring to a four-page "agreement between the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the PLO" signed on Oct. 20, 1991, ten days before the start of the Madrid Middle East peace conference.

The agreement refers to confederation as the ultimate future Jordanian-Palestinian relationship after Palestinians achieve self-determination.

A former senior Jordanian official, who was party to signing the agreement with the PLO, said that the "objective of the agreement, from Jordan's point of view, was to coordinate the work of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace talks."

"It was not an agreement on confederation although confederation was mentioned as the ultimate relationship between the two sides," he said.

Most of the four-page agreement, co-signed by Mr. Arafat and then-Prime Minister Taher Al Masri, related to issues concerning coordination between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides to the joint delegation to the peace talks and preparations for negotiations with Israel.

If the Palestinians are referring to this agreement as an agreement on confederation, then this is not the case as far as we are concerned," another Jordanian official said.

The October 1991 agreement says that "the Jordanian and Palestinian sides agree on the objectives and basis mentioned in this paper for the following aims: "Directing their work and joint effort regarding the peace process in the current stage and formulating visions for the future relationship between Jordan and Palestine within the framework of a confederation."

It also said "a committee would be formed to formulate concepts on the formula for future Jordanian-Palestinian confederal relationship."

One of the "general objectives of the agreement was "the exercise of the Palestinian people of the right to self-determination leading to the achievement of the Palestinian-Jordanian confederal union."

Last month, the joint Jordanian-Palestinian political committee that was named in

(Continued on page 10)

Saudis use arms deals to build their economy

By Ashraf Fouad Reuter

DUBAI — When the Saudis go shopping for arms these days, they don't want just Tornado jet fighters and Abrams M1A2 battle tanks in return for their petrodollars.

They also want sugar refineries, pharmaceutical plants, the world's biggest maintenance shop for Rolls Royce RB 211 jet engines and, increasingly, arms manufacturing plants of their own.

"We have to start somewhere to diversify from oil," a Saudi official said. He said the eventual spinoff into commercial fields from military industries will boost Riyadh's industrial base and create jobs for future generations in a country where half the 13 million citizens are under 15.

What it means from the arms manufacturers' point of view is that it is harder and harder to make a deal with one of the world's biggest and wealthiest arms buyers.

Saudi Arabia is pressing suppliers to "offset" arms deals by reinvesting 30 per cent of their value in local industry in a showpiece programme to help it build a high-tech economy. Arms industry experts said that investment in the rich Saudi economy could be highly profitable.

But Riyadh insists that 30 per cent of any offset deal be invested in its infant local arms industry, preferably related to the weapons being bought, such as a jet fighter or a tank.

They said it was currently involved in arms deals, mainly with the U.S. and Britain, worth more than \$30 billion which have generated direct offset pledges worth some \$10 billion, of which \$3 billion has to be invested in the local arms industry.

The sources said suppliers were sometimes unhappy with Riyadh's insistence not only on identifying the projects they invest in, but also on naming local partners as required by Saudi law.

"Can I do traditional direct offset, high technology or technology transfer for this kind of money? I tell you no way," a senior Arab offset broker said.

"But find profitable (commercial) projects, I certainly can," said the broker with wide experience in Saudi Arabia.

The sources said arms makers were apparently happier with the new and more flexible indirect offset programme launched by the United Arab Emirates and a similar one planned in Kuwait because neither has a compulsory arms industry element.

But Saudi officials strongly defend the ambitious plan and say the offset programme — involving big names like General Dynamics, British Aerospace, Rolls-Royce and Boeing — has proved its economic worth in several military-related fields.

"We know we have to learn to walk before we can run," said an official close to the programme. "Eventually, for example, we will be able to contribute 15 to 20 per cent (of parts) for planes we buy from the West."

But "profit is not a driving factor in Saudi Arabia; strategic interest is," said an Arab expert.

The two-phase peace shield-offset programme with the United States — which has deals with the kingdom for F-15 fighter jets, M1A2 Abrams tanks, aerial surveillance AWACS planes, Patriot missiles, air defence systems and other hardware — is worth between \$5 billion and \$7 billion.

The British — who supply the kingdom with minisweepers, Tornados and Hawk aircraft, and other hardware — also have a two-phase offset plan named Al Yamamah valued at between \$4 billion and \$5 billion.

Experts said some British firms, involved in deals worth more than \$20 billion with Riyadh, were trying to wriggle out of some of their offset pledges.

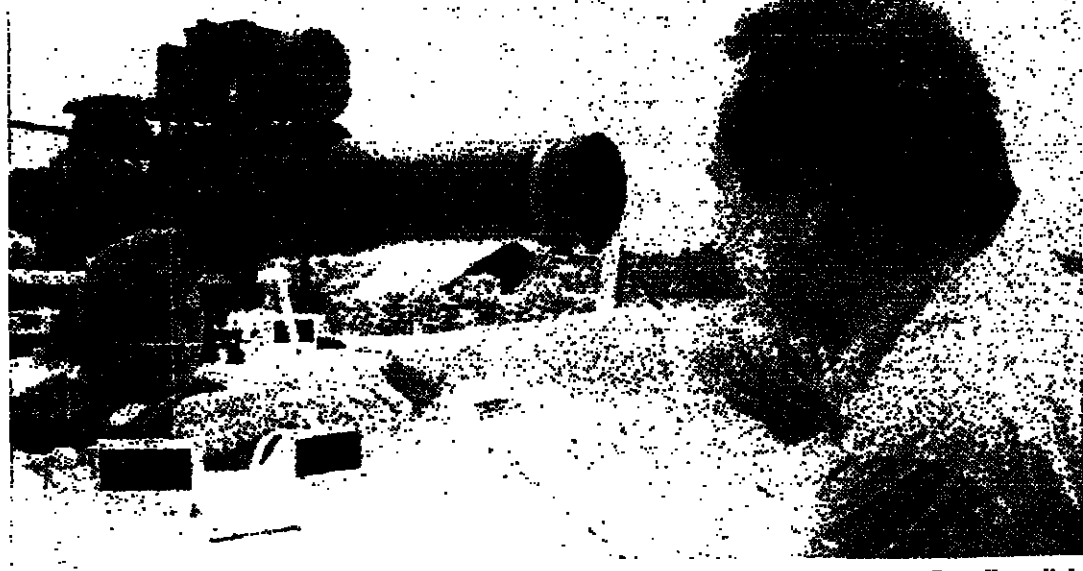
Saudi Arabia now runs the world's largest maintenance plant for the Rolls-Royce RB 211 and services all its C-130 Hercules military transporters at home.

The planes were flown in the past to Portugal but the work is now done at Al Salam Aircraft Company, an \$80 million joint-venture which is part of Peace Shield I. Overhauls and landing-gear maintenance for commercial planes is also done at home.

British companies like Leyland DAF will help Saudi Arabia make military vehicles. Royal Ordnance has a project to produce ammunition, mortars and small arms and there is the proposed manufacturing of a gas turbine engine in the kingdom.

Other projects involve manufacturing thermal insulation and printed circuit boards for the M1A2 tank aircraft accessories, a Middle East propulsion centre, satellite dishes, mobile telephones, batteries, air filters and other equipment.

In non-military fields, the Saudi programme includes making acrylic products, food additives for fish farms, glass-works, a joint-venture with Glaxo to manufacture pharmaceuticals, and negotiations with Tate and Lyle to build a sugar refinery.



German Defence Minister Volker Ruehe shakes hands with a German paratrooper sitting in a "Wiesel" tank during his visit to Belet Huen, some 300 kilometres northwest of the Somali capital, Sunday (AFP photo)

Germany will not quit Somalia alone

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl has assured Germany's allies that Bonn will not act alone and withdraw its troops from a U.N. force if fighting worsens in Somalia, a newspaper reported.

A government spokesman could not confirm the report that Mr. Kohl had spoken with the leaders of Britain, Italy and Belgium but affirmed Bonn would not act without consulting its allies.

Germany began a four-week airlift Wednesday to deploy the main contingent of some 1,700 troops to Belet Huen in north-central Somalia, chosen because it is relatively peaceful and 300 kilometres from volatile Mogadishu.

The mission is controversial at home for marking an end to Bonn's policy of military restraint since World War II. A poll last week found that 56 per cent of Germans want the troops brought home if they are dragged into combat.

It goes without saying that if the situation were to change fully, if (Belet Huen) were no longer a pacified region, that Germany

would not withdraw on its own but would first consult and agree with its allies," a government spokesman told Reuters.

The weekly Bild am Sonntag, in a report released ahead of publication, said Mr. Kohl had telephoned the three allies before leaving Friday on a four-week summer holiday. It said he made the same pledge in talks with French President Francois Mitterrand last Tuesday.

Recent unrest in Somalia has claimed the lives of 35 peacekeepers, four foreign journalists and at least 120 Somalis. Two U.S. soldiers were wounded in Mogadishu Saturday when gunmen attacked their convoy, a U.N. spokesman said.

Defence Minister Volker Ruehe was to fly to Somalia to visit German troops Sunday as they start biggest deployment of German land forces outside North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) territory since World War II.

Mr. Ruehe's spokesman said on Saturday the minister would fly to Belet Huen to welcome the

first convoy of German armoured cars and military trucks arriving at a base camp set up by an advance force that arrived in May.

Some 200 German troops left Mogadishu Saturday for the two-day drive after unloading 113 vehicles in Mogadishu harbour.

Since Bonn's troops carry only light arms for self-defence, the convoy will have to be protected by U.N. contingents from Nigeria, Italy and the United States.

The spokesman declined to say how long Mr. Ruehe would stay in Belet Huen or give other details of the trip.

Mr. Kohl, seeking a wider military role for united Germany despite criticism from the opposition Social Democrats (SPD), pledged troops for Somalia but limited them to a non-combat role supporting other U.N. units.

Both former West and East Germany had large armies but limited them to defence roles in the rival NATO and Warsaw Pact alliances. SPD critics say Bonn's constitution bars it from changing that policy.

Libya offered deal to Lockerbie families

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Libya recently offered the families of victims in the 1988 Pan Am bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, a deal that included handing over two Libyan suspects, according to a report released Sunday.

Libya offered to turn over the Libyans indicted in the bombing to a country of the families' choice, except Britain or the United States, where the suspects were indicted, a lawyer for the families told the National Law Journal in an article appearing Monday.

The lawyer, Lee Kreindler, said he rejected the offer, made July 12, immediately.

The bomb blew apart a Boeing 747 over the town of Lockerbie in December, 1988, killing 270 people in the air and on the ground.

If the two were convicted, Libya would pay damages set in a separate civil action, Mr. Kreindler said. The damages would be paid from an estimated \$500 million frozen in the United States.

Mr. Kreindler said he told an American lawyer who forwarded the Libyan offer "that I would

not deal with the Libyans with a 10-foot pole."

"The proposition was to use me and the families as pawns in the effort to sanitise Libya," Mr. Kreindler said.

The American lawyer, Mary Prashma, told him she was informed of the deal by Libya's ambassador to Greece, who reached her through a client.

The deal came "from the top," Mr. Kreindler said, referring to Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi.

Mr. Kreindler and Ms. Prashma said former U.S. State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer, who was hired by the Libyan government, might have been taken on to try and get the Libyan funds unfrozen.

However, it is not known whether he had any role in the Libyan deal.

Mr. Sofaer's firm, Hughes, Hubbard and Reed, has since dropped Libya as a client, because of what it said was the public's perception and the authorities' reaction.

Kurds kidnap 4 Frenchmen; 16 die in weekend clashes

TATVAN, Turkey (AFP) — Kurdish rebels kidnapped four French tourists in the most dramatic of several raids in eastern Turkey that left 16 people dead by late Sunday, officials said.

Fifteen Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) separatists stopped a coach carrying 25 French holidaymakers at about 8:00 p.m. (1700 GMT) Saturday about 40 kilometres outside this town in the Korkuk region, local officials said here.

After giving the tourists a propaganda lecture, the rebels seized four men and allowed the coach to go on to Van, the provincial capital.

The rebels, who included seven women, decided to take to the hills when they spotted Turkish tanks and armoured cars nearby, a local official told an AFP correspondent.

Turkish security forces immediately mounted a search for the rebels, using helicopters. The four Frenchmen abducted were named as Pierre Six (43-years-old), Michel Coudray (52), Robert Audoin (51), and Fer-

nand Haron (66). One of their wives, who was among the other 21 tourists who arrived safely in Van, said Sunday she had "nothing to say until we have got our husbands back."

Speaking calmly in a telephone interview, the wife said: "We are emotionally shocked."

She said that when the rebels spotted the Turkish armoured cars, "they made us get back into the coach very quickly."

While she and the other wives of the kidnapped men were waiting Sunday for a French diplomat, who is due to arrive in Van on Monday, the other members of the group continued their tour, visiting an ancient church nearby, she said.

Meanwhile, rebel-laid mines derailed a train on the Tatvan-Elazig line Sunday, killing two soldiers and wounding two others plus a civilian, the semi-official Anatolian News Agency reported.

PKK gunmen killed four civilians and wounded three others in an attack on Karakoyun village, Sanliurfa province, on Saturday night, the agency said.

Tension renewed between Iraqi Kurds and Iran

ERBIL, Iraq (AFP) — Iraqi Kurdish officials are threatening to riposte militarily if Iran continues to target them.

"We have decided to answer any Iranian military action by the same means. If the shelling does not end, we shall organise ourselves to shell back," Mohammad Tawfiq, the Kurdish minister for humanitarian affairs, told AFP.

On Thursday, the Iranian army attacked the village of Karnaweh near Shiwa some 15 kilometres from the Iraqi-Iranian border, destroying that community's school, according to concurring sources in the region.

They said the Kurdish fighters seized four Iranian soldiers and in retaliation the Iranian army captured several Kurdish "customs officers" while withdrawing.

Iran has threatened to attack Sulaymaniyeh, one of Iraqi Kurdistan's main cities, if the Iranian prisoners are not freed, Mr. Tawfiq said.

Iraqi Kurdish opposition groups, which formed a government not recognised by the international community, have been in control of northern Iraq since the end of the Gulf war in 1991.

Iranian missiles on Thursday also targeted the headquarters of the Iranian Kurdish Communist Party Komalah, which is opposed to the Iranian government some 30 kilometres south of Sulaymaniyeh, Komalah sources said Saturday.

Iraqi Kurdish authorities confirmed that missiles were launched from Iran in the attack.

Mr. Tawfiq, noting that the Komalah headquarters were far

from the border, said that Tehran wanted "to demonstrate through this operation that it can attack Sulaymaniyeh from Iranian territory."

Komalah and the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iraq (KDPI), the other main opposition group, said last week they had withdrawn their forces from the Iraqi-Iranian border and re-deployed them further south in Iraq.

The KDPI's headquarters lies about 40 kilometres from Erbil and 150 kilometres from the border with Iran.

Mr. Tawfiq said talks with an official Iranian delegation last week in Iraqi Kurdistan "were interrupted when Iran asked us to maintain complete control of Iranian groups in our region. This is not even a matter of discussion for us."

Iranian shelling of the areas bordering Iran intensified after the Iranian delegation left, correspondents in the region said.

On Saturday, shells fell on the Rania region, according to international aid organisations, and the attacks could be heard overnight Friday in the northernmost regions of Iraqi Kurdistan.

Iranian artillery has repeatedly shelled Kurdish-controlled border regions in Iraq since April. Warplanes also bombed opposition Mujahadeen positions north-east of Baghdad in April last year and May 1993.

An Iranian group called Thursday for international action to stop Iraq's attacks against its Kurdish population.

S. Arabia hands over 3 Islamists to Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Saudi Arabia recently handed over to Egypt three Muslim extremists wanted in connection with a case involving 250 Islamists accused of setting up an illegal organisation, informed sources said Sunday.

A Saudi diplomat told AFP that Riyadh and Cairo "cooperate closely on security matters" adding that the two countries had signed a criminal extradition treaty.

He did not specify if the convention applied to defendants in political cases.

"Egypt has never refused to hand over to us people wanted by the Saudi authorities for involvement in criminal acts," he said, noting that Saudi Arabia had been equally cooperative with Egyptian authorities.

On a tour of Arab Gulf states in May, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak urged officials there to slap controls on fund-raising for Egyptian fundamentalist organisations.

The Gulf states have for years helped underwrite Islamic militants' activities in Egypt through private charitable organisations.

Legal sources said Saturday that 250 fundamentalists, including 18 Palestinians allegedly "trained abroad to carry out terrorist acts," would stand trial, in one of the largest such proceedings in the country's history.

Final curtain to fall on 'Ivan the terrible' show trial this week

By Barry Parker Agence France Presse

TEL AVIV — When five supreme court judges announce a verdict on John Demjanjuk's appeal against hanging as "Ivan the terrible" on Thursday the final curtain will fall on one of the great show trials of the century.

Since he was deported from the United States in February 1986, the case of the Cleveland car worker, has rebounded countless times, unleashing passions which will probably not die with the near 1,000-page ruling.

When the beefy Ukrainian, now 73 years old, was sentenced to hang in April 1988 after a 14-month televised trial in a Jerusalem theatre, hundreds of spectators stood to applaud and many chanted "Death, death."

Five Treblinka survivors identified him as the sadistic executioner from the Nazi camp in Poland hacked off pieces of naked people's flesh — breasts, ears, noses — as they went to the gas chambers he operated.

A Nazi identity card, which the defence claims is a Soviet forgery, shows that Demjanjuk underwent training for camp work at Sobibor, another extermination camp in war-time Poland.

Judge Zvi Tal said he had no doubt Demjanjuk, who pleaded mistaken identity and memory lapses for the crucial years 1942-1943, was that man.

As the appeal was due to

open a former Jewish deportee threw acid in the face of lawyer Yoram Sheftel. In December 1988, a month after another of Demjanjuk's lawyers committed suicide. The appeal has delayed for six months.

When the appeal finally began Sheftel presented new evidence from KGB archives in which 37 Ukrainian SS auxiliaries at Treblinka, where 800,000 people perished, identified another man, Ivan Marchenko, as Ivan the terrible. He disappeared in 1943.

That evidence clearly shook the prosecution which maintained that Demjanjuk was the executioner, but no document formally links him with Treblinka.

In the United States, Federal Judge Thomas Wiseman, reviewing proceedings which stripped Demjanjuk of his U.S. citizenship, found last month that "new information" before the Israeli supreme court cast "substantial doubt" on Demjanjuk's being the gas chamber operator.

Mr. Sheftel is convinced his client will walk free. "He will be totally acquitted. Demjanjuk is not Ivan the terrible," he told AFP.

"He is a victim of a political show trial... this will be the final stage of the Demjanjuk affair."

The KGB documents also produced a major shift in Israeli press coverage which has been haunted by the spectre of mistaken identity.

Others, once strongly convinced Demjanjuk was the ex-

ecutioner also now have doubts, including the head of the Nazi-hunting Simon Wiesenthal Centre in Israel, Ephraim Zuroff.

"The prosecutor has shown that Demjanjuk was a guard at an extermination camp, but not that he was at Treblinka," Zuroff said. "Demjanjuk may have just escaped the gallows."

Security measures have already been put into operation around the houses of the five judges in case a not guilty verdict leads to anger among Israelis.

Supreme court President Meir Shamgar, deputy Menachem Elon, Aharon Barak, Eliezer Goldberg and Yaacov Maltz appear to have three main options:

— Uphold the death sentence. A pardon from President Ezer Weizman would be the last hope if Demjanjuk is not to become the first person to hang in Israel since Adolf Eichmann, mastermind of the Nazi's final solution, in December 1961.

— Acquit Demjanjuk, who wants to return to his family in Cleveland, Ohio, where the American Ukrainian community has supported his defence.

— Uphold conviction as Ivan the terrible but reduce the sentence from death, which requires a unanimous verdict, or convict on a lesser charge that he was a guard at Sobibor, which is listed in the indictment.

The verdict from court C will be broadcast live on Israeli radio and television Thursday morning.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Megalopolis
19:00	News in French
19:15	Magazine Sportif
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Golden Girls
21:10	Thirty Something
22:00	News in English
22:30	Colombo
PRAYER TIMES	
04:12	Fajr
05:42	Sunrise
12:42	Dhuhr
16:23	Asr
19:42	Maghreb
21:12	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetlik, Tel. 810740	
Assamites of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Tornaschi Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628343	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Raphael Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 625256	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
Slight rise in temperature will take place and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	19 / 33
Aqaba	26 / 40
Desert	16 / 36
Jordan Valley	25 / 40
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 38 Humidity readings: Amman 29 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Yehia Abdul Rahim	736072
Dr. Ahmad Khumais	747684
Dr. Adnan Al Zaghoul	898140
Dr. Balaiz I. Bader	849352
Firas pharmacy	661912
Perdous pharmacy	778336
Al Aetna pharmacy	637055
Natrouk pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shucisani pharmacy	637660
Natrouk pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632
IBED:	
Dr. Ali Al Shuaibi	246140
Alqida pharmacy	(—)
AMMAN:	
Dr. Ahmad Al Tawfi	900806
Khalil pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence, Immediate	630341
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	620221
Hotel Complaints	408000
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	(directory assistance)
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815151
Electric Power	
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-55200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	08-55200

HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Husseini Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	644281/6
Al-Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	644281/6
Al-Jalal Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	666140
Palestine, Shamsi	664171/4
Shamsi Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muhsin Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajir	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah	775112/6
Army, Marfa	891611/5
Quocan Alia Hospital	602240/30
Amal Hospital	674159
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al Hikam Modern Hospital	(09)990950
IBED:	
Princess Beama Hospital	(02)725555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)727275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital	(02)741100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)311111

Home News

By Saad Stawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan and Palestine have not yet discussed any details related to the projected confederation between Palestine and Jordan, Minister of Information Ma'an Abu Nowar said here Sunday.

The minister, who heads the Jordanian side to a Jordanian-Palestinian political committee set up to discuss coordination between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Jordan, said a sub-committee to discuss the idea of a confederation has not been formed and the terms of reference of all the sub-committees emerging from the joint committee have not yet been finalised.

Speaking to several journalists at the Ministry of Information following the swearing in of 15 new Jordan Press Association (JPA) members, Dr. Abu Nowar said he was not yet discussing the subject with the government.

The minister disclosed that the Ministry of Information was preparing a national information strategy which, he said, aims at contributing towards safeguarding the country's security, freedom and independence, and en-

ported arrest of some people in Jordan, the minister said there have been reports that aim to distort facts and give the wrong impression about the country and its stability.

Israel and other foreign circles lie behind such distorted reports, said the minister.

Dr. Abu Nowar added that it is wrong of the media to meddle in cases still under examination by the Jordanian courts and it is improper for the media to meddle in judicial procedures.

The minister cited what he called an interference on the part of the Lower House of Parliament during the Al Nafir group court trial, which he said forced the presiding judge to defend himself before the public.

Commenting on the reported plans for the amendment of the election law, Dr. Abu Nowar said, the subject has not yet been discussed by the government.

The minister disclosed that the Ministry of Information was preparing a national information strategy which, he said, aims at contributing towards safeguarding the country's security, freedom and independence, and en-



Journalists Sunday stand to take an oath as new members of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) in the presence of Minister of Information Ma'an Abu Nowar (centre) and JPA President Suleiman Al Qudah (sixth from left) (Petra photo)

hancing national unity. The strategy, he said, is founded on Arab and Islamic values and respect for human rights. Dr. Abu Nowar said it also aims to enhance inter-Arab soli-

arity and divisions among Arab countries, among other objectives.

He pledged to provide support for the JPA and urged the new journalists to work hard and defend their profession.

Dr. Abu Nowar called on the journalists to uphold the ethics of the profession and employ it in ways to defend the country and to contribute to its stability and security.

He said journalists are urged to support the Kingdom's democratic process and defend human rights in their writings and various tasks.

Attending the swearing in ceremony was JPA President Suleiman Al Qudah who said the JPA law, which aims at serving the journalists' interest, contains some loopholes which the JPA Council is striving to plug.

The new JPA members took an oath before the minister of information. They include three journalists from the Jordan News Agency, Petra, and 12 from private sector periodicals.

The new members bring the total JPA roster to 230.

Tender announced for new phase of Al Hassan Industrial City

RAMTHA (Petra) — The Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) has announced a tender for the construction of the second phase of Al Hassan Industrial City in the Ramtha region on 12,750 square metres.

JIEC sources said Sunday that implementation of the second phase was motivated by the growing demand for facilities resulting from incentives and services offered by JIEC and the exemption of social and service taxes on new businesses in their first two years.

The first phase of the city was built in early 1991 and consists of 41 industrial companies occupying 27,740 square metres.

Eight companies specialise in food processing, eight in electrical and metal engineering, 11 in chemical industries, four in plastics, seven in furniture, doors and

kitchens, one in textiles, one in construction, and one in leather.

A total of JD33 million is invested in these businesses which together employ 700 workers, a number which is expected to increase to 1,350 with the construction of the second phase.

JIEC said the Al Hassan Industrial City has an advantage because it is located near the international highways linking Jordan with Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia which facilitates export and marketing operations.

It is also located near the main cities of Irbid, Mafrqa and Ramtha.

In addition to the basic facilities, the city has offices for the departments of Employment, Customs, and Civil Defence as well as a police station, a post office, a clinic, a commercial

bank, a permanent exposition centre displaying samples of the manufactured goods, and a vocational training for accommodating 150 students.

Meanwhile, in Amman, the Ministry of Industry and Trade announced Sunday that it registered 89 new industrial projects in Jordan during June, with an estimated capital of JD7.898 million.

At least 71 of these projects are located within the Amman governorate, creating 1,107 new jobs.

The projects include leather and textile, tissue paper, furniture and chemical industries.

The ministry said several of these projects are joint ventures with investors from other countries such as Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Lebanon and France.

Report says father killed 14-month-old

AMMAN (J.T.) — A man identified as A.A. by the Irbid police was reported to have caused the death of his own 14-month-old son by hitting him on the head and leaving him unattended.

The man told the police that he had quarrelled with his wife who then ran out of the house, leaving the child with the father.

The man told the police that he left the boy in the house after hitting him on the head several times and went to fetch his wife who had taken refuge in the home of her relatives in the city.

The wife refused to go with her husband and the husband returned alone to the house and found his son dead, according to a report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday.

The report said the father carried the child to the Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid where the coroner said the child had died as a result of nervous and bloody shocks when his head fell on a hard object.

The wife later told police that her husband had suffered from mental disorder for some time.

Sudan says interested in buying variety of Jordanian products

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting Sudanese minister of industry and trade, Taj Alsiir Mustafa Sunday said his country was interested in purchasing a large variety of Jordanian products including potash and fertilisers and hopes to export Sudanese livestock to the Kingdom.

Sudan is also interested in promoting the work of the Sudanese Trade Centre in Amman and the Jordanian Trade Centre in Khartoum in order to increase the volume of trade exchanged with Jordan, said the minister at the start of a joint Jordanian-Sudanese committee meeting here.

Sudan is also keen on organising trade fairs to orient the Jordanian public on Sudan's products and hopes to reach agreement with Jordan on maritime and air transport to promote tourism and trade, said Mr. Mustafa.

We are determined to remove all obstacles to trade between Jordan and Sudan, and for this sake we are trying to activate a trade protocol signed earlier be-



Trade and industry officials of Sudan and Jordan Sunday hold a joint Jordanian-Sudanese committee meeting in Amman (Petra photo)

tween the two countries, he said.

The Sudanese official said his country would be willing to receive a team of Jordanian veterinarians to study the stockbreeding business in Sudan.

The Jordanian side to the meeting was led by Minister of Industry and Trade Bassam Al Saket who noted that Jordan was oriented towards industrial and commercial integration with the rest of the Arab World and is keen on freeing inter-Arab trade

of restrictions.

Ministry sources said Jordan's exports to Sudan last year totalled nearly JD8 million, and its imports were close to JD2.256 million.

The Sudanese minister later met with Agriculture Minister Marwan Kamal and discussed agricultural cooperation.

Special attention was given to the prospect of Jordan importing meat and live sheep from Sudan, provided they meet Jordanian

specifications.

Discussion between the two ministers also covered cooperation in the exchange of veterinary medicine and vaccines, fruit tree saplings and modern irrigation equipment.

Sudan has more than 200 million acres of cultivable land of which only 15 per cent is exploited, said Mr. Mustafa.

He urged Jordanians to invest in Sudan's agricultural projects.

Border crossings rise sharply

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan registered 8,411 million arrivals and departures at its airport, seaport and land border crossings during 1992, according to Public Security Department (PSD) figures quoted by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ).

The figure reflected a sharp increase during the year when compared with previous years: 5,987,100 in 1991, 7,593,400 in 1990 (including the one million or so foreign nationals who left Kuwait and Iraq through Jordan after the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait), 6,682,000 in 1989 and 7,161,000 in 1988.

The latest statistical bulletin of the CBJ said Jordanian nationals accounted for 2,169,700 of the total entries and exits registered during the year, 1,090,600 entered and 1,079,100 left the country.

These figures compare with a total of 1,752,500 Jordanian arrivals (893,900) and departures (858,600) registered during 1991.

According to the bulletin, 1,211,635 of the arrivals and departures (561,279 arrivals and

650,456 departures) were registered at Aqaba Port.

It showed that during 1992: — 930,700 Egyptian nationals arrived in the country while 816,800 left compared with 621,500 arrivals and 558,700 departures in 1991.

— 648,000 Syrian nationals came into the country while 587,500 left compared with 566,200 arrivals and 480,500 departures in 1991.

— 413,300 nationals of Saudi Arabia entered Jordan and 413,100 left, compared with 272,500 arrivals and 257,000 departures in 1991.

— 570,000 Iraqis entered the country and 585,100 left, the comparable figures for the previous year were 276,900 arrivals and 258,500 departures.

Nationals of other Arab countries accounted for 300,100 arrivals and 271,800 departures, compared with 226,200 and 224,100 respectively in 1991.

162,400 Turkish nationals arrived in the country while 123,100 left, compared with 136,100 arrival and 114,400 departures during 1991.

Other Asian nationalities accounted for 39,100 arrivals and

33,808 departures compared with 33,500 arrivals and 33,900 departures during the previous year.

— 20,900 British nationals entered Jordan and 21,100 left, compared with 10,300 and 9,600 respectively registered during 1991.

— Other European nationalities accounted for 86,200 arrivals and 82,500 departures compared with 39,200 arrivals and 35,200 departures in 1991.

— 31,500 Americans came into the country while 30,100 left, compared with 18,700 arrivals and 17,500 departures during 1991.

Other American nationalities accounted for 7,500 arrivals and 7,300 departures compared with 5,000 arrivals and 4,600 departures.

All other nationalities combined accounted for 33,000 arrivals and 32,400 departures compared with 21,600 arrivals and 22,700 departures during 1991.

The bulletin showed that during the first four months of this year, 1,146,900 people arrived in Jordan and 1,327,300 left. The figures include 334,900 Jordanians who came into the country and 345,700 who left.

Lecturers debate interpretations of Islamic laws regarding women

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — What an independent saw as logical, just interpretation of Islamic Sharia that led to the society's prosperity were considered by a Muslim Brotherhood member as Western-imported ideas that are at the core of the Arab nation's suffering.

In a seminar held at the University of Jordan in celebration of the fourth Women's Week, Senator Hamad Farhan and Islamic Sharia Professor Ibrahim Kilani Sunday differed over the way Islam is and can be interpreted.

Both tried to shed light on Islam's provisions for protecting women's rights, but failed to agree on fundamental issues, regarding women.

Polygamy to Mr. Farhan for example, was "circumstantial" that is, not meant to be applicable at all times. He said a man marrying up to four wives at a time was justifiable during the time of Prophet Mohammad because Muslims were engaged in numerous battles and consequently casualties resulted in many more women than men.

Mr. Farhan supported his argument by citing a Koranic verse which in effect says if a man is

fearful of unequal treatment among his wives, then (keep) only one.

"This verse implies that polygamy is prohibited," Mr. Farhan said. "You (addressing the university students) and mosques' moulazims might disagree on what I consider as one of the pillars of Islam: eliminating the first injustice that befell women: polygamy."

Former minister of Awqaf, Dr. Kilani dismissed Mr. Farhan's arguments as "influenced by the Western culture that does not stem from Islamic culture" and advised him to read more comprehensively the fundamentals of fiqh (Islamic jurisprudence).

He called on intellectuals to speak out frankly and think of the influence of modernism, progress and renaissance on the dissension the Arab Nation is suffering at present.

Dr. Kilani pointed out that women's issues are of minor importance in comparison to the great challenges facing the nation which contribute to and reinforce backwardness and dependency.

He said major differences exist between the Western society that imposed monogamy and the Islamic one that allowed polygamy.

"The civilisation that is based on prohibiting polygamy is in fact established on allowing adultery

in all of its forms," Dr. Kilani said. "That society (Western) has its own ideological philosophy on life that differs from the Islamic society which is established on chastity and protection of honour."

Using the terms "chaste" and "dignified," Dr. Farhan argued that since the Islamic society is considered the most chaste society, hijab (the Islamic veil) is unnecessary. He said that the Arab woman is the cleanest, most dignified and chaste and should be reciprocally treated with confidence and not doubt, by exploiting her capacities and not confining her.

"The call for veiling women is an implied suspicion of their dignity," Mr. Farhan argued. "The veil was not imposed on the Prophets' wives, Aishah and Khadijah."

Dr. Kilani refuted Mr. Farhan's statements, maintaining that the Prophet's wives used to wear the veil. "The veil was not following the liberated Western style," he argued.

The two speakers, who attempting to answer questions from the audience were repeatedly drawn back into arguing with each other.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent congratulates Maldives, Liberia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday sent a cable to president of the Maldives Mamoun Abdul Qayyum congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on his country's national day. The Regent wished Mr. Abdul Qayyum continued good health and happiness and the people of the Maldives further progress and prosperity. Prince Hassan sent a similar cable to Liberian President Amos Sawyer congratulating him on his country's national day.

Energy minister meets with Qatari envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Walid Asfour received in his office Sunday Qatari Ambassador to Jordan Nasser Abdul Aziz Al Nasser. Mr. Asfour and Mr. Nasser discussed means of enhancing Jordanian-Qatari relations in mineral and energy-related fields.

Education minister reviews Irbid college programmes

IRBID (Petra) — Minister of Education and Higher Education Khaled Al Omari Sunday met with members of the administrative and teaching staff at Huwara and the girls of Irbid community colleges and discussed with them academic issues and study programmes at the two colleges. Dr. Omari stressed the need to update community college curricula to meet the needs of the local society.

Omani water officials arrive on study tour

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Omani Ministry of Water Resources arrived in Amman Sunday on a four-day visit to Jordan to familiarise themselves with the Kingdom's pioneering experiments in the field of water studies and projects.

Women and elections seminar held in Zarqa

ZARQA (Petra) — A seminar on women and the parliamentary elections was held Sunday at the Zarqa Chamber of Industry at the request of the Jordanian Businesswomen's Club. Participants in the seminar included Deputy Taher Al Masri, Club President Hind Abdul Jabbar and Director of the Women's Consultancy Services Office in Zarqa Nadia Bushnaq. The participants stressed the importance of women's participation in the upcoming parliamentary elections and in developing the Jordanian society.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Syrian artist Sakhr Farzat at the Balka Art Gallery, Fuhais City.
- ★ Exhibition of a new collection of art works by Princess Wijdan Ali at The Gallery, Hotel Jordan InterContinental.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings and ceramics by Ali Al

Mi'mar, Hazem Al Zu'bi, Abdul Raouf Shanoun and Jalal Ureigat at Eshbeela Art Gallery, 6th Circle, Amra Shopping Centre.

- ★ Art exhibition by Rana Dia and Mohammad Kadouni at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of British Archaeological projects in Jordan at the Royal Cultural Centre.

JERASH FESTIVAL

- ★ Concert by Al Fuhais Troupe for Folk Arts at the South Theatre of Jerash at 8:30 p.m.
- ★ Arabic play entitled "Golgash" at the Royal Cultural Centre 8:30 p.m.

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AUGUST '93, COURSES

COURSE	PERIOD	TIME	REQUIREMENTS
ELECTRONIC STATISTICAL TABLES (EXCEL)	31/7 - 5/8	8:30 - 11:30	WINDOWS
WORD PROCESSING (MS-WORD)	31/7 - 5/8	11:30 - 2:30	WINDOWS
OPERATING SYSTEMS (DOS-WINDOWS)	31/7 - 5/8	3:30 - 6:30	—
OPERATING SYSTEMS (DOS-WINDOWS)	7/8 - 12/8	8:30 - 11:30	—
ELECTRONIC STATISTICAL TABLES (EXCEL)	7/8 - 12/8	11:30 - 2:30	WINDOWS
WORD PROCESSING (MS-WORD)	14/8 - 19/8	8:30 - 11:30	WINDOWS
OPERATING SYSTEMS (DOS-WINDOWS)	14/8 - 19/8	11:30 - 2:30	—
ELECTRONIC STATISTICAL TABLES (EXCEL)	14/8 - 19/8	3:30 - 6:30	WINDOWS
WORD PROCESSING (MS-WORD)	21/8 - 26/8	8:30 - 11:30	WINDOWS
ELECTRONIC STATISTICAL TABLES (EXCEL)	21/8 - 26/8	11:30 - 2:30	WINDOWS
OPERATING SYSTEMS (DOS-WINDOWS)	21/8 - 26/8	3:30 - 6:30	—

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
TEL. 664221, FAX. 681557

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Genuine efforts or political gimmick?

WHEN JORDAN and other Arab parties involved in the Middle East peace talks agreed to the launching of the peace process in Madrid almost two years ago, they did so out of their belief that negotiations are the only viable means for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and achieving real peace in the region. War had lost its credibility as an option and the no-war-no-peace situation that prevailed in the area for too long was taking an alarming toll on the peoples of their area and their resources.

That said, we fail to understand the vehement calls of the Muslim Brotherhood deputies and their allies to abandon the process. We further fail to understand why, two years after the process was launched, the 31 deputies who met in Parliament Sunday at the call of the Brotherhood bloc, decided to turn up the pressure on the government to drop the negotiations. All the deputies are doing is say no to the peace process. They are not offering an alternative or detailed plan on how Jordan is supposed to abandon the negotiations when all other involved Arab parties are determined to see the process through to the end. The Muslim Brotherhood deputies and their odd allies had more than a fair chance to translate their opposition to the negotiations into solid action when the House was in session. The fact that they did not utilise this chance when they could have done so in an effective way, i.e. withdraw confidence from the successive governments that sanctioned the negotiations, leaves us with one explanation: The deputies are tapping on the sentiments of people angry and disheartened with the failure of the negotiations so far to produce tangible results to make electoral gains and political statements that do not take into account the national interests of the country, obviously best served by sticking to the peace process.

The deputies are entitled to their opinions but they have no right to accuse the country of what it is not doing. The peace talks are not a surrender as the Brotherhood likes to call them. Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians are not abandoning their rights by participating in the peace talks. All through the process, the Arab parties have said that they will not compromise on any of their rights in the occupied territories. What they are doing is negotiating the return of their rights on the basis of United Nations resolutions and in a way that would lead to the realisation of the Palestinian people's rights in their land. That is not surrender. It is a path that a regime responsible for protecting the interests of its people is following as the only viable option. The peace talks have thus far been the only reasonable way for attempting to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Parties opposed to it should provide an alternative or forever keep silent.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR described as very serious recent statements by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in which he said that the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are not occupied lands. Why are the Arabs and the Israelis holding negotiations then, if this is the case? asked the daily. The whole Middle East peace process is based on the fact that Palestinian lands are occupied and that U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, calling for Israeli withdrawal from the Arab lands occupied since 1967, ought to be implemented, said the daily. By denying that the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have been occupied for more than one quarter of a century by the Israeli forces, Mr. Christopher is further retreating from U.S. commitments and abandoning the previous pledge of acting as full partner to achieve peace in the Middle East, the paper added. Should the U.S. adhere to this new position with regard to the occupied land, the whole peace process will be taken back to square one. And should Washington continue to ignore Arab rights in Palestine, the whole peace process will become meaningless, the paper continued. If the Palestinian lands are not occupied territories, why should the U.S. secretary visit the region? To discuss nothing? asked the paper. It said that one can only deplore the American stand and consider it as part of the official U.S. administration's biased stand which favours Israel at the expense of the rights of the Arab Nation.

SAWT AL SHAAB commented on recent threats by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in which he said Israeli forces could launch aggression on Lebanon to quell resistance attacks on the Israeli positions. The massing of troops along the border with Lebanon is an embodiment of Mr. Rabin's preparations for this aggression on Lebanon in total defiance of the Arab Nation and in violation of international rules, said the daily. The expected aggression, said the paper, has been prepared for through continued shelling of Lebanese border regions and air raids on Lebanese and Palestinian positions. While pursuing the path of aggression Mr. Rabin is strangely enough talking about the continuation of the peace process with the Arabs, something which could be taken as a justification for Israel to take any step it feels fit in necessary to fight the Arabs and demolish their homes under the umbrella of the peace negotiations, said the paper. By shelling the southern regions of Lebanon, Israel is causing panic among the local villagers and inciting them to turn against the resistance forces operating from their neighbourhood, the paper added. It said that the Lebanese government is quite aware of the Israeli intentions and is determined to abort them by all possible means and with armed resistance, wherever possible.

Colin Edwards, correspondent, broadcaster and lecturer for over 40 years, writes for the July/Aug. issue of *The Link*, a magazine published by Americans for Middle East Understanding, about his experience with Zionist censorship in the field of news reporting and documentary production. Calling it the *Zion Curtain*, in this first of a two parts article he depicts the long arm of the Zionist censorship and its damping and distorting of news concerning the Middle East.

This goes back to January, 1949, when a Jewish friend in the United Nations Secretariat warned me that I had been put on the death list by people in Israel who had belonged to the Irgun terrorist organisation. They had found out that I would be passing through Egypt on my way to an appointment as a military observer in Southeast Asia after a year and a half of free-lance journalism at U.N. headquarters.

In view of the fact that I had nothing published at that point on the Middle East, it seemed ridiculous that I would be thought important enough to be assassinated. However, my friend reminded me that at some party of U.N. people in New York (before Israel was established in May 1948) I had expressed the opinion that it would be dangerous for everyone in the Middle East, including the Jews there, and for world peace, if a Jewish state were set up in Palestine on Zionist principles of Jewish superiority, discrimination against non-Jews in every walk of life and expulsion of the indigenous Muslim and Christian Arabs, and especially if it pursued the expansion of its borders to include all the territory to the East as far as the Euphrates and North to Turkey proper, as had been put forward by the Zionist leadership prior to and during the peace conference at Versailles, following the end of World War I.

It seemed much more sensible and fair, in my view, for Palestine to go through the process that was happening in some other British-ruled territories, like India and Burma; that is, of being granted independence, with equality of political, cultural, religious and personal rights guaranteed in a constitution to all its inhabitants. I felt it would be madness for the U.N. to let a European settler minority with no valid ancestral claim to the land of Palestine establish a state there encompassing more than half of its territory, including the bulk of its fertile areas.

Almost all Central and East European Jews are descendants of the ancient Khazars, a mixed Turk-Ugrian people who had once ruled a large and powerful empire in Ashkenaz (what is now Southern Russia, the Ukraine and the Crimea). Very few, if any, had ever been seen in Palestine before the start of, first, spiritual and, then, political Zionist emigration from Czarist Russia to Palestine in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The Zionist claim of a religious connection to Palestine was equally weak, since the vast majority of Central and East European Jews, including most of the Zionist leadership, were atheists or agnostics by the 20th century. In fact, it is not at all certain that the order by the Khazar Khan a dozen centuries before had resulted in all his subjects seriously adopting Judaism as their religion.

Saying all this apparently got me into the bad books of the Zionists.

Censorship at the Commonwealth radio systems

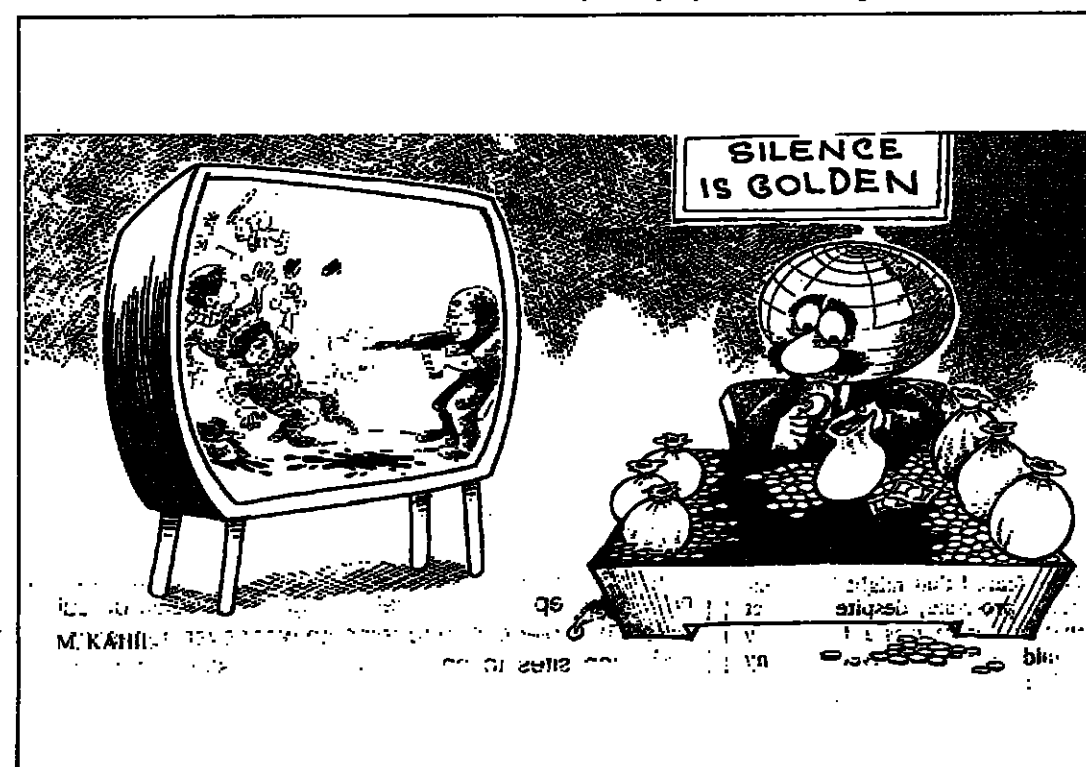
Nothing untoward happened on my passage through the Middle East in 1949. I returned there in 1969, doing straight reporting and recording dozens of interviews in Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon for Commonwealth radio systems. CBC-Radio Canada and the New Zealand Broadcasting System used an hour-long conversation I recorded in Beirut in 1969 with Laila Khaled, the Palestinian former schoolteacher who had hijacked a TWA plane in the Middle East in an effort to get the U.S. government to pressure the Israelis into releasing some members of her political faction, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who — they believed — were being tortured in an Israeli prison. When I submitted it to BBC they turned it down, but according to friends of mine at the CBC office in London, segments of it were used a year later (without informing me) when Miss Khaled hijacked an Israeli airliner.

My interview with Laila Khaled was the first of a series of my programmes on the Middle East that NZBS had accepted. But before the second could be put on the air, the NZBS executive who had handled my contributions to their programming for many years told me that, because of political pressures exerted through members of the New Zealand Parliament, NZBS was having to cancel the rest of the series — with deep regret.

In the next few months I completed more programmes, including major documentaries, out of the recordings I had made in the

Middle East and sent them up to the CBC in Toronto. I had been supplying the CBC with reports from other regions of the world, without any trouble, for most of the previous ten years. Suddenly, I found that a brick wall had gone up as far as receptivity at CBC for my work went. The explanations were politely evasive: "We have covered this subject already," when I knew they had not, at least not in any depth. The "Zion Curtain" had dropped. Zionist influence is strong and pervasive in Toronto.

During a 1970 visit to the CBC's Toronto headquarters, where I had been the programme organiser of a network documentary series in the early 1960s, I was invited by the executive in charge of another CBC radio network programme to produce a one-hour documentary on the history of the Palestinian resistance. He happens to be Jewish, a Jew who — like vast numbers of other Jews — has seen through the Zionist pretension to be the sole representatives of the Jewish people and their traditions and the true heirs of the millions of victims of the Nazi holocaust.



In that programme I put extracts from interviews I had recorded with leading figures in most of the major factions of the PLO. Before it was broadcast all across Canada and into U.S. areas along the border, the same CBC executive put out press releases everywhere to emphasise its importance.

However, CBC staff members told me that other programme departments of CBC, ones that could take more frequent contributions from outside producers like myself, had received word from a different Jewish executive that my work should not be used.

Gratifying as it was to have the documentary on The Palestine Resistance broadcast, it was clear that my concentration on the Middle East had jeopardised my capacity to make a decent living in radio, unless I was willing to compromise on my duty to bring out all the relevant facts of a situation.

That compromise was one I could not accept.

Censorship at the Pacifica Radio

If I could not get through the "Zion Curtain" in the Commonwealth radio systems on which I had been broadcasting for so many years, perhaps there was a chance in the United States with Pacifica Radio, a non-commercial radio system for which I had done many documentaries and a commentary series on Asian affairs for four years. By then it had stations in Los Angeles, New York and Texas, as well as the "mother station" in Berkeley, California. However, Pacifica was to prove that it itself was not immune.

As I finished the work on each programme, I made a copy and gave it to the Public Affairs Director at the Pacifica station in Berkeley, KPFA-FM, Elsa Knight Thompson. She had always welcomed programmes I had done around the world and in the U.S. and had put them on in the first available open space in the station's schedule, usually the nightly Open Hour. This was created to accommodate new developments in the political scene. Frequent announcements were made during the day that my latest documentary would be aired that evening, and a repeat broadcast would be scheduled so that it could be included in the next KPFA fold.

However, that scenario ceased after the airing of the first of the

programmes made from the material I had recorded in the Middle East in 1969. Mrs. Thompson received the tapes of the subsequent programmes as graciously as ever — but they were not put on in the first available slot, nor by the time I had completed the next ones, nor until six months after the day I gave her the first.

In May 1970, Mrs. Thompson was promoted to Programme Director, and Don Porsche, who had been news director, succeeded her as public affairs director. He discovered that for the third anniversary week of the June 1967 war she had scheduled eight programmes produced in Israel or by Zionist organisations in the United States. In a cupboard he had found the tapes of my recent Middle East documentaries that she had chosen not to air, so he decided to put five of these on in the same week as the eight programmes, to provide some sort of balance.

Mrs. Thompson had gone on vacation but, when the first of my latest documentaries had been broadcast, bringing on a storm of protests from local Zionists, she rushed back. Mr. Porsche lost his job and the last two or three of my programmes were cancelled. The time allotted for the last one was reallocated to a round table discussion where I was confronted by a panel of three highly antagonistic Zionists.

Several of the top staff people

telephone company has a special office to deal with these things," they said.

I called up the telephone company, where a customer service representative did not seem to know of any such office. She said someone at the company would call me. On Sunday evening (which seemed peculiar) I got a call from a man who identified himself as from the telephone company. He questioned me about the message and asked whether I had received any similar calls before. I said "Death threats, yes, but none of them mentioned a specific date this time."

"Have you ever actually been attacked?"

"Shot at once. At least I believe I was the target. You can get the police report."

"Well, if you get any more threats, let us know." And that was that. Fortunately, the threat was not carried out. When I mentioned this incident to a Jewish friend who was a student at the University of California's Berkeley campus, he told me that an attempt had been made, not long before, to recruit him into the Jewish Defence League, which had carried out many terrorist actions in the United States, resulting in deaths and injuries. He did not want any part of it. What was even more interesting was that the IDL recruiter who had approached him was a long time member of the

1969 I had been on the speakers' panel of the College Association for Public Events and Services (CAPES), an organisation set up by smaller colleges in California, Oregon, Washington and Arizona to arrange lecture tours of these colleges by people with some expertise in a wide variety of fields.

This gave me the opportunity to continue getting out to the public what I had learned about the politics of the Middle East, as well as on Southeast Asia, my other specialty at that time. Some of the colleges where I spoke on the Middle East were told by local Zionists that if I were invited back they would cut off their financial contributions to them. They also wanted me taken off the CAPES speakers' list.

To its great credit, the CAPES staff and board resisted these attempts at censorship and kept me on its panel of lecturers year after year but, since CAPES left it to the colleges to choose which speakers would appear on their respective campuses, the "Zion Curtain" pressures began to tell on my bookings, and my last record of a talk under CAPES sponsorship came at the end of 1974.

By that time I had embarked on another means of getting my work out to the public. The University of California Extension Media Centre in Berkeley asked me in November 1966 if I would allow them to distribute tape and cassette copies of my documentaries and interviews to universities, colleges and organisations. They started with twelve. By 1971 the list had grown to forty-three, many of which did not deal with the Middle East.

In September that year, with the approval of the University of California Extension Media Centre, I signed an agreement with an audio-cassette programme distributor in North Hollywood, the Centre for Cassette Studies (CCS), for them to distribute a hundred of my other programmes, and CCS selected an additional thirty-eight during the following eight months. These it began selling to schools, colleges and libraries around the U.S.

Among the one hundred and thirty-eight programmes on which the distribution rights had been bought by CCS, twenty-three dealt with the politics of the Middle East. When I granted CCS the rights on the programme, I was assured that there would be no censorship of them. However, as the new CCS catalogues of its audio-cassette offerings appeared in the following months and years, I noticed that none of my Middle East programmes was among them. Enquiring about this I learned that the CCS staff member who had selected my programmes originally had left the company and his place had been taken by a former Israeli army officer.

I saw Elsa Knight Thompson when I next called in at KPFA, to recover the tapes of my programmes. In trying to explain the difficult position that my work had put the station in with some of its wealthiest supporters, she said they were threatening not only to withhold their annual contributions and cut the station out of their wills but also to organise a boycott of the station by all its subscribers.

She also told me that she had been beaten up on the street outside the station, "Who would want to beat you up, Elsa?" I asked.

"Oh, from what they were shouting at me I gathered they were some young Zionists who did not understand that I was a Zionist," she replied.

"Why didn't you tell all this — on the air — to your listeners? Lou Hill established KPFA to be a station that could resist all outside pressure. I am sure your listeners would have rallied around the station."

"We could not afford to lose our big contributors," she replied. "We would put at risk the very existence of the station, which would mean also all the other programmes that we do not do, for fear of offending the sponsors."

"You are falling into the same trap, Elsa. Lou Hill wouldn't like it." And on that note, we parted.

Cassette censorship

In the 1970s, a group of people connected with a church in Los Angeles that had been trying to get discussion going on the problems of the Middle East invited me to speak at a rally there with a PLO representative and Rabbi Elmer Berger, president of American Jewish Alternatives to Zionism. The Los Angeles Police Department provided us with police protection but a pipe bomb exploded outside the home of a lady involved in the organising of our appearances.

While continuing to supply programmes — on subjects other than Middle East politics — to Commonwealth broadcasting systems, I began spending more time lecturing at colleges up and down the West Coast. Since early in

around the country and the world (many orders for those on the Middle East coming from U.S. military institutions) pressure, exerted by California Zionists, began to build on UCEMC to drop them. When its director and staff held firm, the Zionists turned to the university's Board of Regents, one of whom was a prominent Zionist. UCEMC was obliged to submit to special meetings of the board its justification for distributing my Middle East programmes. Faculty members who were experts on the Middle East were asked to evaluate my programmes for accuracy — and they declared favourably on them. However, UCEMC was subjected more than once to this time consuming process of justifying its retention of my programmes in its catalogue. In what seemed to be a move to placate the complaining regent, UCEMC added to its audio-tape catalogue a large collection of Zionist-prepared or Zionist-approved programmes. Eventually, in 1978, UCEMC shut down its entire audio-cassette distribution programme and concentrated its efforts on selling documentary films.

The Menahem censorship

Early in the seventies I had recorded sixteen hours of conversation with Moshe Menahem, Yehudi Menahem's father, about his life, beginning in Czarist Russia, where he experienced the pogroms, and proceeding on to his school years in Palestine in the early years of this century, to his years in America and then Europe and around the world, and to his retirement in Los Gatos, California. After I had pared the recordings down into eleven one hour programmes, these were distributed by UCEMC. Also, they were broadcast on KPFA in Berkeley, in a rare let-up of the ban on me.

Moshe Menahem and I had become good friends and early in 1979 he asked me to work with him on his autobiography. When we had finished, near the end of that year, Moshe startled me by asking me to act as his literary agent, a profession in which I had no experience. I repeatedly declined his request but he was insistent. He was one of the many anti-Zionist Jews whose views are almost totally ignored by the mass media and he feared that, if he died and left the manuscript in the hands of a regular literary agent, that agent might yield to a publisher's wishes to remove or dilute Moshe's strong political statements in it. He felt he could trust me not to allow that.

After approaching several American publishers and recognising a reluctance to publish a manuscript containing lengthy explanations of how Moshe came, as a Jew from a strongly religious family, to reject Zionism as a political philosophy, I suggested that I show it to some publishers in Britain, where I thought the "Zion Curtain" was not quite so all-enveloping. If "The Menahem Saga," as we had titled it, achieved the hoped-for success in Britain, then it would be harder for U.S. publishers to turn it down out of hand.

So, off I went to London to talk with publishers there. Many expressed the same reservations about its anti-Zionist viewpoint but eventually I found five of Brit-

As UCEMC distributed these

(Continued on page 5)

LETTERS

Meaty staff

To the Editor:

I wish to point out that the report (Australian meat imports to continue if they meet Jordan's specifications), which appeared in the July 22 edition of your newspaper concerning discussions between Australian meat industry representatives and Jordanian government officials seriously misquotes the Australian ambassador on the subject of classification of Australian sheep meat for Jordan. The ambassador said that Australia was anxious to see in place a system which did not differentiate against Australian lamb and that all imported meat of equal quality should receive the same classification (the opposite of your article's statement that he was pleased to be informed that such a classification system, recognising equal price for equal quality, is about to be implemented in Jordan).

The ambassador also stated to Jordanian officials that Australian producers and export authorities have carefully adhered to the specifications for import into Jordan, with the result being that there is no shortage of such meat, as pointed out by the Jordanian authorities. The ambassador also stressed that the trade in live sheep brings substantial benefits to Jordan in the form of employment and side-product industries. Thus, it is mutually beneficial, and he and the Australian government look to its continuation and expansion.

Brian Pullen,
Consul,
Australian Embassy,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and request under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



Inter-Arab investment doubles from \$227m in '87 to \$483m in '92

KUWAIT (R) — Arabs are increasing investment in each others' countries but still place most funds outside the Arab World, an investment insurance institution said Sunday.

A doubling of private inter-Arab investment from 1987 to 1992 was due mainly to an improved Arab investment climate including trade liberalisation and privatisation, the Kuwait-based Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation said.

The corporation, reiterating a previous estimate, said over the past 42 years private Arab investors had placed 56 times as many funds outside the Arab World as inside it.

Private inter-Arab investment rose to \$483 million in 1992 from \$227 million in 1987, a statement by Director General Mamoun Ibrahim Hassan said.

The figures were \$232 million in 1988, \$258 million in 1989, \$400 million in 1990 and \$922 million in 1991. The unusual 1991 figure was caused by the establishment by Kuwaiti investors of a holding company in Egypt with capital of \$300 million, it said.

The corporation said its definition of private investment included direct investment by state bodies conducted solely for profit. It excluded aid-related investment by such institutions.

The corporation, owned by 21 Arab states, insures Arab investors against political risk, promotes inter-Arab investment and researches investment flows.

Elaborating on a data it first aired at a conference of Arab investors in Damascus in May, it said it estimated private Arab investors had placed 56 times as much money outside the Arab

World as inside it over the past 40 years.

It said total private Arab investment outside the Arab World between 1950 to 1992 amounted to \$670 billion against \$11.9 billion within the Arab World.

"For every dollar invested in the Arab market, \$56 were invested in international markets," the statement said. "It is clear that Arab surplus capital migrated from the Arab World to other markets, looking for security, profit and confidentiality."

But it added: "Most Arab countries have already laid down the legislative and administrative framework governing foreign investments. Loopholes are being filled in order to overcome any possible obstacles to inter-Arab investment."

An official of the corporation said by telephone inter-Arab in-

vestment was growing for two main reasons. The first being trade liberalisation and a move to privatisation in the region.

The second was an increasingly difficult investment climate outside the Arab World, due to what he called a less welcoming political and monetary environment.

"Arab investors are more familiar with the Arab World, and if they have business problems they find it easier to meet senior government officials to try to solve those problems," he said.

"In the past, the capacity of the region could not take the amount of investment capital available — the region was too small economically to have absorbed the \$670 billion since 1950. That is starting to change. Arab investors are now thinking seriously about Arab countries," he pointed out.

OPEC still divided over emergency talks

Iraq warns Saudi Arabia, Kuwait over oil quota busting

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, its oil exports sealed by United Nations sanctions, warned Saudi Arabia and Kuwait Sunday of the danger of flooding world markets with oil.

"The Arab masses ... cannot permit the Saudi and Sabah families (rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait) and those following them or petrol sheikhs to squander Arab money," the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra said.

The warning was reminiscent of one made by Baghdad in 1990, when it accused Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates of sabotaging Iraq "in the back with a poisoned dagger."

Iraq said Friday members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) had nothing to fear from the return of Iraqi crude to the international oil market.

It said they should worry instead about Saudi Arabia and Kuwait who it said were flooding the international markets with oil by pumping above their assigned quotas.

Baghdad's official newspapers have been predicting a swift end to Iraq's isolation from oil markets.

Thawra said OPEC was no longer able to "check deterioration in oil price rates and production ceiling amid the propensity of Saudi and Sabah families to bust quotas, flood oil markets and destroy the price framework for the advantage of imperialist countries."

It said such policies were helping "imperialist countries to form their (own) strategic reserves of this strategic commodity."

Meanwhile, OPEC members remained divided Sunday over whether to convene an emergency meeting immediately to help boost oil prices.

OPEC President Jean Ping said some members of the 12-nation OPEC favour waiting "for a more concrete element" emerging from Iraq's oil talks with the United Nations.

"Some others think we should meet anyway and have a contingency plan," Mr. Ping told Reuters following talks in the (UAE).

Mr. Ping, on a Middle East tour seeking to narrow differ-

ences among the world's key oil producers, said he might fly to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait Monday for further consultations with the two oil-producing heavyweights.

"I might go to Kuwait and stop over in Jeddah (Saudi Arabia)" on Monday, Mr. Ping said.

Mr. Ping, oil minister of Gabon, arrived in the UAE, the fourth largest OPEC producer, on Saturday after talks in Iran. Earlier in the week he held negotiations in Saudi Arabia and met Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Ahmad Al Baghli in London.

Gulf sources said Saudi Arabia and others in OPEC feel emergency OPEC talks should be held if Iraq is allowed to sell oil and such talks also remain a possibility if prices continue to deteriorate.

The sources said the possibility remained of emergency OPEC talks around mid-August.

The Saudis remained of the general view that a meeting will have to be held if the U.N. and Iraq agree on a formula for the sale of oil worth \$1.6 billion over a six-month period.

But the sources said it could several weeks of Iraqi-U.N. talks before an accord is reached.

Mr. Ping reiterated that minimum consensus among OPEC states is yet to be reached.

"Before giving a date and venue (for OPEC emergency talks), I have to see (OPEC) member countries in this area. It is useless to convene a meeting if you do not have a minimum of consensus. There is not yet a consensus. We need more time," he said.

Mr. Ping said UAE and Kuwaiti oil officials expressed to him during telephone consultations "that we (OPEC) should take action."

Now Russia has effectively de-

Russia abandons old Soviet rouble

MOSCOW (R) — Russia effectively dumped its old rouble this weekend, pulling pre-1993 banknotes from circulation and leaving other countries who use the former Soviet currency to go their separate ways.

Moscow's unexpected decision Saturday to withdraw notes issued before this year sent shockwaves around the former superpower. Other ex-Soviet states reacted with confusion and sometimes panic.

"The decision ... virtually means the introduction of a new Russian currency," ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Armenian Finance Minister Levon Barkhudaryan as saying. "It is a direct violation of all previous agreements on currencies."

He said the move, to take effect Monday, would have negative consequences on the rouble zone of countries which still used the old Soviet currency.

Russians drew parallels with earlier efforts at monetary reform in 1991 when the country withdrew large-denomination banknotes in an ill-conceived bid to crack down on corruption.

"Trust in the government is gone now," said one Moscow taxi driver. "A dozen opposition rallies could not achieve what the central bank and the government have done now."

Most former Soviet republics still accept the rouble as legal tender, although they tend only to use old-style roubles — banknotes which bear the profile of Bolshevik revolutionary leader Vladimir Lenin.

Many have supplemented scarce roubles with temporary coupons and five — Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and the Baltic states of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia — have abandoned the rouble completely, introducing currencies which are not valid in other states.

Now Russia has effectively de-

cided to do the same, allowing citizens to swap to 35,000 old-style roubles for new-style notes. Cash over that threshold must be deposited in special bank accounts for six months.

The move means Russia has abandoned attempts to persuade other countries to stop using the old rouble unless they coordinate monetary policy with Russia.

The decision to withdraw old banknotes should in theory help the rouble increase in value because it reduces the amount of cash in circulation in Russia.

But the impact will probably be offset by a series of decisions taken by the Russian parliament last week which could lead the country back to the brink of hyperinflation.

A top finance ministry official said Friday parliament's decisions, which include proposals which bring the budget deficit to 25 per cent of gross national product from 10 per cent planned earlier, could drive inflation up and the rouble down.

The currency lost more than half its value in the first five months of this year amid concern that the government was not doing enough to bring inflation under control.

But the currency has been stable at around 1,000 to the dollar for the last two months. Street traders in Moscow offered 1,000 roubles per dollar Sunday and said they had not changed their rates since the central bank move.

The reaction from was mixed from elsewhere in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Delors said it would pull old roubles from circulation. But a Moldovan central bank official said old roubles would remain valid until Moldova introduced its own currency later this year.

Local newspapers said coupons introduced to supplement roubles already accounted for up to 95 per cent of the cash in circulation

in Moldova.

Georgia's Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua told local television, Georgia will abandon the Russian rouble next month.

Mr. Sigua and Georgia would allow citizens to swap up to 100,000 old-style Russian roubles (worth about \$100) for Georgian coupons within the next week at one rouble per coupon.

After Aug. 2 the coupon, introduced earlier this year to supplement scarce roubles, would completely replace the former Soviet currency, Mr. Sigua said.

In the Georgian capital Tbilisi local shops stopped taking roubles as soon as they heard the news from Moscow. The coupon, which had been trading at seven to the rouble, rose sharply, although black market traders were few and far between.

Uzbekistan will stay in the rouble zone, regardless of Russia's decision to withdraw old rouble banknotes from circulation, RIA News Agency Sunday quoted central bank officials as saying.

The agency said the Central Asian country expected to receive supplies of new Russian banknotes, but it would use the old notes until they arrived.

"The exchange of new banknotes for old should be conducted without limit through savings banks and branches of the central bank," it said.

Uzbekistan's rules for its people to swap old roubles for new ones appear more liberal than those in Russia, where authorities said citizens could only swap up to 35,000 old roubles (worth \$35) for new notes.

Moscow has given non-Russians only one day to swap old banknotes for new, limiting the exchange to 15,000 roubles (\$15).

It was not clear whether Russia would agree to supply Uzbekistan with limitless amounts of new notes.

Kuwait stocks hit by Iraq tension in early '93

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's recently-revived stock exchange, registered a temporary but marked decline in the first quarter of 1993 apparently due to tensions with Iraq, the central bank has reported.

The bank's quarterly statistics review said the value of shares traded in January to March fell 45 per cent to 62.9 million dinars (\$207½ million) from the 114 million dinars (\$376 million) in the last quarter of 1992.

"It appears this decline may be attributed mainly to fears of traders due to the severe tension in the southern area of Iraq since late December 1992 and during January 1993 as a result of the Iraqi regime defiance of the United Nations resolutions," the review said. "Relative improvement returned to market activity in the month of March after stabilisation of security in the border areas, thus alleviating the above-mentioned fears of traders."

The exchange's daily figures indicate the bourse has recovered in the second quarter of 1993. Forty-three companies are currently registered on the exchange, compared to 52 at the time of the Iraqi invasion.

The bank said the volume of traded shares in the first quarter fell 30 per cent to \$206 million from \$297 million in the last 1992 quarter, the bank said.

The number of transactions fell 38 per cent to 5,480 from 8,868.

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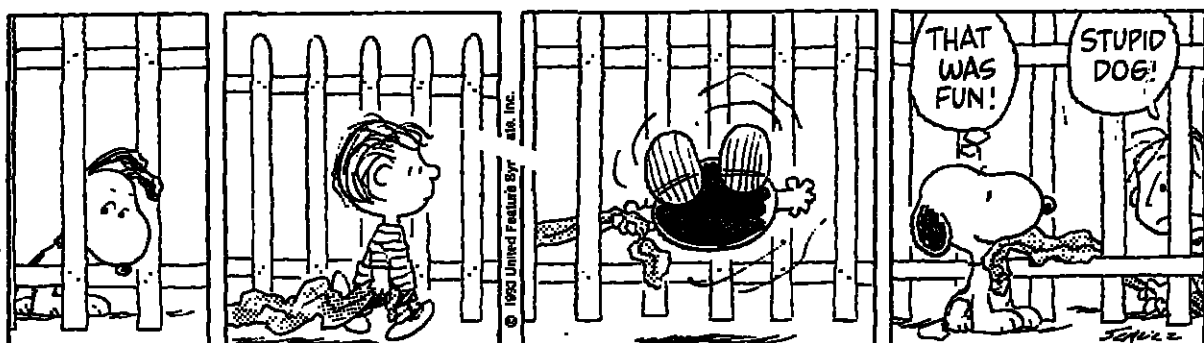
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Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FRACT

PAROE

YARNTT

PINKAD

THE KIND OF PROBLEMS A SKIPPER FACES WHEN HIS SHIP IS BEHIND SCHEDULE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DUCHY AGING DISMAY MALLEET
Answer: What the handsome exercise instructor was — A GYM DANDY

HOROSCOPE
FORECAST FOR MONDAY JULY 26, 1993
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a great day to work out constructive ideas and to get surroundings in better order. You will also find that you can get the whole-hearted cooperation of fellow workers and business associates.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get into whatever practical or mundane needs are present in your life and handle them in a common-sense manner. Tonight study ways to increase your fortune.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Take a good look at yourself in the mirror and do whatever will add to your personal appearance and your charm, tonight be off with practical friends.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You start the week with the need to get out from under some obligation which will not be easy but persevere anyway and tonight, common sense methods prevail.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is a day when exercising too much force to gain any desire could boomerang on you but the evening brings sensible suggestions from an associate.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Whatever you have in mind about your worldly situation requires much tact and diplomacy during the day even though tonight you can go forward in enhancing your public image.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You want to be off to some new interests today but until evening there are a number of points that are vague that you need to know more about.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have some promises of a practical nature to meet today so get busy and handle them in a no nonsense manner. Tonight you see ways to please a business person.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Think about what requires extra attention be paid an associate to keep that person from getting upset. Tonight partner matters work out very well.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Stick to the activities you have to do today in spite of some tense and difficult conditions and tonight you see where you are making big progress.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Take time out today to work whatever your special gift or hobby happens to be and tonight you are able to put in motion or use to your benefit.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) If you made some promise over the weekend to your family make a point to be most conscientious in performing them. Tonight home then is a fine place to be.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Whatever outside and difficult activities require your attention get into them during the daytime so you can enjoy yourself in the evening.

THE Daily Crossword by Betty Jorgensen

ACROSS

- 1 Set-going jail
- 5 Into European
- 10 Nippy
- 14 California city
- 15 Absent-minded
- 16 Fr. friend
- 17 Ger. river
- 18 Entertain
- 19 Baseball team
- 20 Close
- 21 Cathedral part
- 22 Sea mammal
- 23 Thru
- 25 Show rudely
- 27 North Carolina tort
- 29 A Mesozoic
- 33 Heavy cloth
- 36 Mistle
- 38 Prejudice
- 39 Fusses
- 40 Archfield
- 41 Patron saint of sailors
- 42 Weight
- 43 Chosse in a red jacket
- 44 Frequently
- 45 Form of lottery
- 47 Thighbone
- 49 Horseman
- 51 Up and about
- 52 Characteristic
- 58 "My Father Told Me"
- 60 Sha. in Chaucer
- 61 Cause ennu
- 62 Silvery fish
- 63 Bare
- 64 Final word
- 65 Resigned's residence
- 66 A Scott
- 67 Enjoy a novel
- 68 Beneath
- 69 Energetic

DOWN

- 1 Sanctified
- 2 Buckaroo
- 3 Fresh thoughts
- 4 What diamonds are?
- 5 Across
- 6 City in Italy
- 7 Musical statement (Grammy winner)
- 8 Photographer
- 9 US humorist
- 10 Musical question
- 11 Leave out
- 12 Occupation
- 13 Hart
- 22 — Paul Kruger
- 24 Shores
- 26 Tres
- 28 Designated
- 30 Cardano
- 31 Woman's title
- 32 "Unto us — is given"
- 33 Cowardly Lion
- 34 Concert halls
- 35 Take off
- 37 Otto
- 40 Farm need
- 44 "Town"
- 46 Kindred
- 48 Skilled one
- 50 Mische, the violinist
- 52 Noisy drinker's sound
- 53 Church dignitary
- 54 Indigent
- 55 Italian city
- 57 Vicinity
- 58 Other
- 62 Dallas col.

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

DOWN AND UP
MEET LOAN UNDER
RISA NORE LOARS
RIGORISTANT
AND FOR DEEMED
BILLYBOREAN LOVE
ORALS ORA LOVED
MADA JORDANLOVED
OTE SEEN ANY
SEBATE AND PAD
CATER WASH ORRA
ADORE SILE HERR
TORIO OVER HERR

3 World News

Bosnian Serb leader to attend Geneva talks with new offer

BELGRADE (R) — The leader of the Bosnian Serbs, Radovan Karadzic, said Sunday he would use this week's peace talks in Geneva to propose making Sarajevo an "open city."

In a letter to the co-chairmen of the peace talks, Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, Mr. Karadzic said he would put forward ideas to improve conditions for Muslims in the besieged Bosnian capital and in enclaves in eastern Bosnia.

He said the Bosnian Serbs would do all they could to ensure that food, water, gas and electricity reached Sarajevo without interruption.

Sarajevo residents have been deprived of essential services for more than a month and the amount of food reaching the capital has been severely cut back by fighting.

"We offer to make Sarajevo in effect an open city if the Muslims agree to do likewise," Mr. Karadzic said.

"As for the enclaves in eastern Bosnia, we are prepared to desist from all attacks on them provided that the armed forces within them are disarmed."

He added: "Our objective is not to gain more territory, but to ensure access and security. Let territory remain in the hands of its inhabitants."

Mr. Karadzic said last week he saw little point in the Geneva talks, set to begin Tuesday after

being delayed from Friday at the request of the Bosnian government, because he said president Alija Izetbegovic did not intend to reach agreement.

In the letter he made clear that he believed a settlement was still some way off because the Muslims were being encouraged by "powerful forces" to hold out against a Serb and Croat plan to split Bosnia into three ethnic mini-states.

The Bosnian presidency, although deeply divided, has favoured a proposal to make Bosnia a federation with equal rights for all ethnic groups.

Meanwhile, a new Bosnian truce formally took effect Sunday but faction leaders immediately accused rivals of failing to respect it.

The truce was meant to smooth the way for the resumption of talks to end the country's civil war.

Sarajevo Radio said Serb forces around the city were continuing to fire with "all weapons at their disposal."

Croatian radio said Croat and Muslim units clashed in and around the central town of Buzovo after the ceasefire deadline.

The commander of the Bosnian Serb army, General Ratko Mladic, said Muslims were continuing to fight around Sarajevo.

Speaking in the Serb stronghold of Pale, near Sarajevo, he

told Reuters: "The agreement to end offensive activities towards Sarajevo is being respected by our side but not by the Muslim side. We will see what we shall do next."

A spokesman for the United Nations Protection Force in Sarajevo said it would be some time before it could be determined how well the truce was holding.

There was scattered shelling and sniping in the city after the formal start of the truce at 10:00 a.m. (0800 GMT). But it was significantly less intense than the heavy bombardments of the previous three days.

Guns were believed to be Serbs fired on a French news agency journalist in his armoured car at a roadblock in Sarajevo and he was rescued by Muslim soldiers after driving his vehicle into a ditch to escape.

Hugh Nevill, the correspondent for Agence France Presse, suffered a broken ankle in Saturday's incident but his life was saved by his armoured Land Rover which deflected more than 50 shots, he said from his hospital bed Sunday.

The U.N. Protection Force, which is supposed to control Sarajevo's airport road—a frontline area—where the shooting occurred, expressed concern at the incident and was looking into the circumstances.

A tenuous alliance between Croats and Muslims in the south-eastern Bosnian town of Capljina blew apart earlier this month when Muslims suddenly turned on their comrades. Croat military sources said.

HVO (Croatian Defence Council) military sources said Muslim soldiers attacked their Croat comrades in the trenches east of Capljina at dawn on July 13 in a surprise attempt to gain control of a key stretch of the Neretva River bank.

Having given shelter to about 8,500 Muslim refugees during the 16-month Bosnian civil war, and fought for months as allies with Muslim soldiers against rebel Serb forces, Croats here are still reeling from the assault.

The attack failed in its objective, but 18 Croat soldiers were killed by Muslim soldiers in the first 30 minutes of fighting, they said.

There were no funerals on the same day in Capljina—all young Croat men killed in their sleep at the front," says Mara Jurkovic, head of the local social care centre.

"Relations between Muslims and Croats have deteriorated. We live in constant fear of an explosion of emotions, or worse."

As Bosnia's civil war becomes a three-way battle for territory among Muslim, Serb and Croat forces, civilians are paying the heaviest prices.

ASEAN security forum to explore new order

SINGAPORE (R) — Efforts by South East Asian nations to find a new post-cold war security order in Asia are beginning to bear fruit with the support of all major trading nations, diplomats said Sunday.

Foreign ministers of the United States, China, Russia, the European Community (EC), Japan and other major trading nations met in Singapore Sunday to discuss an 18-member security forum proposed by the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

"ASEAN's preventive diplomacy has started showing results," ASEAN Secretary-General Ajit Singh said. "All major players in this region will take part in the process of defusing tensions and achieving peace and stability."

Diplomats said ASEAN's initiative to prevent the emergence of ethnic and regional rivalries could lead to the first post-cold war security arrangement in the Pacific rim.

"Some questioned the validity of ASEAN after their rallying point of Communist threats disappeared," an Asian diplomat said.

"But now they are finding themselves under the spotlight of international diplomacy."

ASEAN—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand—was formed in 1967 at the height of the Vietnam War to work against the spread of communism.

"You could be seeing a pivotal point here where you're beginning to draw Russia and China... into a direct dialogue on security issues," said a senior U.S. official accompanying Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The proposed ASEAN Regional Forum will bring together ASEAN members, their seven trading partners—the United States, Japan, Canada, EC, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand—and guests Russia, China, Vietnam, Laos and Papua New Guinea.

The security forum, due to be launched in Bangkok next year, will provide a platform for talks between non-ASEAN countries.

Mr. Christopher is holding talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen on issues including nuclear non-proliferation and relations with North Korea and Cambodia. He is meeting Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev separately.

"The Cambodians, on the other hand, are lobbying for more financial assistance to rebuild their country, while the South Koreans are trying to win assistance from China and Russia to press North Korea to open its border for international nuclear inspection," the Asian diplomat said.

ASEAN has also won assurances from China, Russia and the United States pledging commitment to peace in the region.

"We highly value the positive role of ASEAN in regional cooperation and regional security and wish to strengthen and give full play to the mechanism of dialogue and consultation with ASEAN," Chinese Foreign Minister Qian told reporters.

Zulu leaders reject draft S. African constitution, seek 'Greater KwaZulu'

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Zulu leaders Sunday rejected a compromise short of federalism for South Africa, lashing out at the provisions of a new draft constitution that has yet to be made public.

In strongly worded speeches, King Goodwill Zwelithini and Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthezi told a gathering here of nearly

50,000 Zulus, most of them armed with traditional weapons, to hold firm in their rejection of central government control.

King Zwelithini called for a "Greater KwaZulu...including all the land which is now known as KwaZulu and Natal."

He implicitly accused the IFP's main rival, the African National Congress (ANC), of attempting

an "ethnic cleansing" of Zulus, but called on his followers to avoid "becoming part of an ethnic conflict."

The king and Buthezi were addressing an "imbizo"—a traditional Zulu congress—at the suburban First National Bank Stadium near the sprawling black township of Soweto, whose population is made up mostly of ANC supporters.

Troops, civilians killed in Sri Lanka rebel attack

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil guerrillas overran a major army garrison in northeast Sri Lanka early Sunday, killing 15 civilians and up to 40 soldiers in the biggest recent attack of their independence campaign, military sources said.

"At least 15 civilians were killed and 24 soldiers wounded when the rebels attacked the Janakapura army camp and a nearby settlement in the Wel Oya area shortly after midnight, a military spokesman said."

Other military sources said they feared up to 40 troops had been killed. They confirmed 23 soldiers' deaths and said many others were missing and feared dead.

The bodies of one officer and 15 soldiers had been recovered, the spokesman said.

"Janakapura was our strongest base there," said a senior army officer in the area.

He said the camp, situated on a hill, was attacked shortly after midnight by at least 200 Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels, including women and teenage fighters. Fighting lasted almost until dawn.

Military sources said the rebels attacked the Janakapura Base with heavy mortar and small arms fire.

Air strikes and artillery were used to fend off the rebels who also attacked two nearby army outposts at the same time to block army reinforcements, the military spokesman said.

The guerrillas, fighting for independence in Sri Lanka's north and east, bulldozed and set fire to the base, which was set up to protect nearby civilian settlements, before withdrawing with many captured weapons.

Air force officials said aircraft circling over the camps had attacked a rebel jeep and a tractor.

Japan opposition bid for coalition gains momentum

TOKYO (AFP) — Efforts by Japanese opposition forces to form a coalition government gained momentum Sunday, following reluctance by a key "up to" to form links with the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

"Non-LDP cooperation is strong," Shinto Sakigake (Pioneer Party) chief representative Masayoshi Takemura said.

The two new conservative formations, Sakigake and Japan New Party (JNP), hold 13 and 35 seats respectively in the 511-member lower house of parliament, and are believed to control the balance of votes in forming the new government.

"It's almost impossible" for the LDP to accept political reform proposals made earlier by Sakigake and the JNP, Mr. Takemura said in a television interview Sunday.

Five other opposition parties, which have reportedly decided to accept the proposals, plan to launch an anti-LDP coalition government by winning a prime ministerial election in parliament.

The five are the main opposition Social Democratic Party, Shinseitō, Komeitō, the Democratic Socialist Party and Shaminren (United Social Democratic Party).

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa formally announced Thursday that he would step down as LDP president to take responsibility for a setback his party suffered in Sunday's general elections.

The statement by Mr. Miyazawa was generally understood to mean that he would not seek another term as prime minister.

The post of LDP president had carried with it the premiership as

well, but he said he would not seek another term as prime minister.

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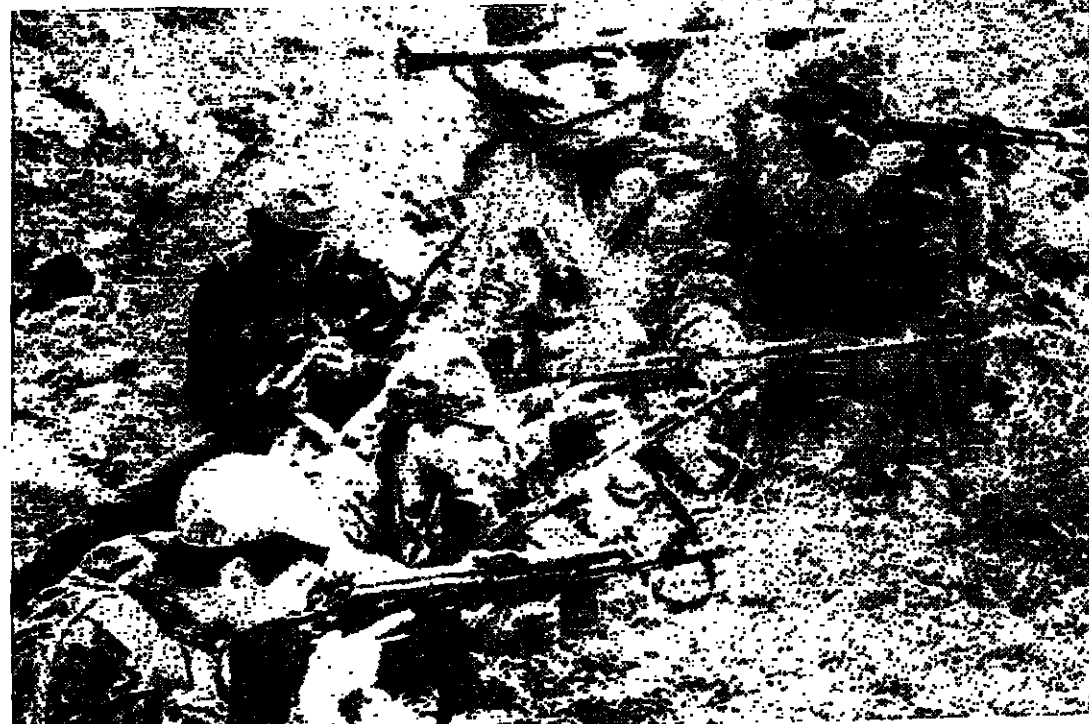
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Georgian Federal army soldiers aim their guns at Abkhazian rebel positions near the village of Shkhy in the breakaway region (AFP photo)

Shevardnadze defends Abkhazia plan

TBILISI, Georgia (R) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze defended a controversial peace plan for his rebel Abkhazia province, saying it was the best solution for now.

"Some points (of the plan) are not favourable to us today," Mr. Shevardnadze said in a late-night television broadcast Saturday.

"But in terms of the future, of saving the country, I think we are on the right track."

Georgia's parliament, criticising a provision in the deal under which Georgian troops would leave Abkhazia, earlier abdicated responsibility for the plan, and called on Mr. Shevardnadze to take the final decision.

The peace plan aims to silence the guns in the breakaway Black Sea region after almost a year of fighting.

Abkhazian rebels earlier approved the blueprint, mediated by Russia, which provides for a ceasefire, phased demilitarisation and the withdrawal of Georgian Armed Forces.

But Mr. Shevardnadze, the last foreign minister of the Former Soviet Union, said the plan was favourable to the trans-Caucasian state in the long term.

"I decided to rework the draft slightly and sign it. It is my mission and my duty, since we have no other way," he said.

Georgia says more than 3,000 people have been killed in the conflict, which erupted last August when Georgia sent in troops to quell Abkhazian demands for more autonomy.

The separatist forces control of Abkhazia's territory and have effectively besieged the regional capital Sukhumi.

The Georgian Military Press Centre said Sukhumi was bombed by two unidentified aircraft Sunday. Several people were wounded when four bombs fell on a residential area.

A spokesman said Abkhazians also attacked a village south of Sukhumi. At least 10 rebels were killed in a two-hour battle.

Mr. Shevardnadze stressed the plan was an intermediate step. "A next stage of the peace

process will be general acts to settle the military conflict. After this, all previous decisions would lose their force," Mr. Shevardnadze said.

International observers working on behalf of the United Nations and the Conference of Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) would be sent to the region to monitor the ceasefire, troops withdrawal and demilitarisation, he said.

"The composition of the group of observers has not yet been negotiated, but Russia's presence in it is essential," he said.

Georgians have accused Russian forces in Abkhazia and mercenary groups from the Caucasus of supporting the rebels.

Earlier this year the Georgian parliament demanded the immediate withdrawal of Russian troops from Abkhazia. Moscow rejected the demand.

"The presence of Russian troops is an issue for further negotiations with Moscow," Mr. Shevardnadze said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ceasefire announced in Karabakh

MOSCOW (AFP) — Azerbaijani authorities and Armenian separatists in Nagorno-Karabakh Sunday announced the conclusion of a three-day ceasefire. The Azerbaijani embassy here said the ceasefire was to have come into effect at midnight local time Saturday. Local news agencies quoted officials in Stepanakert, the chief town in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region, as saying the ceasefire was concluded Saturday by acting Azerbaijani Defence Minister Safar Abiyev and Samuel Babayan, head of the Armenian Armed Forces. News of the ceasefire follows reports that Armenian forces last week overran the town of Agdam, the main Azerbaijani base in the battle for Nagorno-Karabakh.

Witness claims innocent over Gardini death

MILAN (R) — A key witness in Italy's corruption probe denied Sunday that his leaked testimony drove industrialist Raul Gardini to suicide and vowed to tell magistrates all he knew. "Gardini's death has struck and saddened me but I don't feel responsible myself," said Giuseppe Garofano who, like Gardini, is a former chairman of the crisis-torn Ferruzzi company. "I'm determined to tell magistrates everything I know and I expect to get out of here soon," he was quoted by newspapers as saying from his cell in Milan's top-security Opera Jail. Garofano, who was being questioned by magistrates again Sunday, was arrested 10 days ago after five months on the run. Gardini, who helped turn Ferruzzi from a small grains business into an international giant, was found dead in his Milan flat Friday with a bullet through the head. He was still clutching an automatic pistol.

Major is still in deep crisis

LONDON (R) — Britain's Conservative government, nursing its wounds after a bitter feud over its policy in Europe, lurched into a new crisis Sunday with revelations of internal conflict and predictions of a humiliating election defeat. Prime Minister John Major was quoted as calling three of his cabinet ministers "bastards", while opinion polls indicated his party would lose a key seat in a local election next week. Mr. Major had just survived one of the most dangerous crises of his 2½-year premiership. After losing a vote on the Maastricht Treaty for closer European union Thursday, he asked for a vote of confidence and threatened to call a general election if he lost. Because polls show the opposition Labour Party is currently more popular, "Euro-rebels" within his party felt obliged to back him and his European policies and the government won the confidence vote with a comfortable majority.

China denounces 'lies' about dissident

PEKING (R) — China denounced Sunday what it called politically-motivated lies by the Western media and human rights groups over its treatment of a jailed leader of the 1989 pro-democracy movement. Judicial authorities, quoted by the official Xinhua News Agency, denied reports that the parents of Wang Juntao were being forced to pay high fees for his care in a hospital outside of the prison system where he was moved in early June. Mr. Wang suffers from hepatitis, among other ailments. He was jailed for 13 years in 1991 for allegedly being a "black hand," or key figure, in the Tiananmen Square movement crushed by the army on June 4, 1989. Meanwhile a document uncovered by a human rights organisation revealed that China has for years allowed the use of organs from executed prisoners for medical transplants despite official denials. Peking issued top-level confidential rules covering policy on the issue in 1984, according to the documents obtained by New York-based Asia Watch. "We don't have hard evidence yet if these organs are removed from executed prisoners without their prior permission being given, but we've received reports that this is the case," Asia Watch Hong Kong spokesman Robin Munro told Reuters Sunday.

Nicaraguan violence may intensify

MANAGUA (R) — Violence in Nicaragua threatens to intensify with rebels pledging to fight on for land they say they were promised and President Violeta Chamorro threatening to crush them if they do not disband. Despite a battle last week that left 45 people dead, rebels pledged that they will not give up their fight until the government makes good on promises that followed the end of the eight-year civil war in 1990. President Chamorro had earlier threatened to launch military offensives in mountainous northern areas unless the guerrillas gather in demobilisation zones by next weekend and disarm by the end of August. Some 1,400 former members of the contra rebels that fought the Sandinista

government as well as a number of discharged Sandinista soldiers are under arms. Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saturday blamed the economic policies of President Chamorro's government for the bloody rebellion. Mr. Ortega, leader of the leftist Sandinista opposition, said in Havana that Mrs. Chamorro and rightist political and business groups in Nicaragua did not understand that social and economic problems and not military factors were the cause of these violent incidents.

Flight recorder of Chinese plane found

PEKING (AFP) — Investigators found the flight recorder from an airliner that crashed during takeoff in northwest China, as the death toll was revised down by four to 55 people, official reports said Sunday. All of the dead were Chinese nationals except for one Briton and a Hong Kong resident. Fifty-eight people were injured, including a French and Indonesian. Six injured were still in critical condition, the Guangming Daily said.

12 killed in Colombian plane crash

BOGOTA (R) — A small passenger plane crashed and exploded in Bogotá, killing 12 people including the top two officials of Colombia's Civil Aviation Agency and five people on the ground, officials said. The twin-motor Titan aircraft slammed into an auto repair shop in west Bogotá shortly after take-off and the subsequent explosion set fire to surrounding apartment blocks, police said. "It was like a plane in an air show," a witness told local radio. "It started to turn and turn and then it went down." Police said all seven passengers and crew members on the plane were killed as well as five others on the ground. At least 15 other people on the ground suffered second- and third-degree burns. An air traffic controller at the capital's El Dorado International Airport said the aircraft's pilot reported engine trouble minutes after take-off and tried to return to the airport before crashing.

11 killed in Thai bus crash

BANGKOK (R) — Eleven people including six foreigners were killed when a double-decker tour bus crashed in a rainstorm in northern Thailand, news reports said Sunday. The dead in the Friday night crash included a 24-year-old British woman. Three Pakistanis and two Laotians, the Nation newspaper reported.

Indian police storm Golden Temple

AMRITSAR, India (SFP) — Indian police stormed the Golden Temple here in an overnight action to arrest two wanted Sikh rebels reportedly sheltering inside the holiest shrine in Sikhdom, officials said Sunday. Some 50 heavily-armed officers raided the 400-year-old complex and searched for the militants in the temple hostels housing Sikh pilgrims, they said. The police raid last about an hour, witnesses said. Witnesses said the raiders detained at least 10 Sikh visitors in a police station, adding that the pilgrims were released after interrogation. The two wanted militants were not found in the shrine, the officials added.

Police suspected in Brazil massacre

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) — Three police officers arrested in the killing of seven street children were released Saturday when survivors of the murderous spree failed to identify them, Brazil's military police said here. The three men were arrested shortly after the attacks late Friday after one survivor fingered them, but their release was ordered when another five could not link them to the massacre. Police Colonel Valmir Brum, a top police commander, said he could not rule out the possibility that other officers had shot the seven children to death and indicated the investigation would continue. Two other children hit by gunfire as they slept outside the Igreja de Candelaria, Rio's largest Roman Catholic Church, were in comas in a Rio hospital Saturday.

South Asia flood toll soars to 2,600

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Overflowing rivers and pouring monsoon rains threatened to engulf new areas in South Asia where the death toll from devastating floods in Nepal, India and Bangladesh rose to 2,600 Sunday. The raging floods have submerged hundreds and thousands of acres (hectares) of farms and affected millions of people in the three neighbouring nations. Fears of epidemics spreading among the marooned people also grew as poor weather, submerged roads and rail tracks in the region hampered rescue and relief operations in Nepal, India and Bangladesh, officials said.

Naked grandmother chases off car thieves

GATESHEAD (R) — A British grandmother who chased off two skinhead car thieves in the early hours of the morning only realised she was stark naked when neighbours peered from their windows on hearing her shouts. "I ran downstairs, flung the door open and started running down the street shouting at them," 50-year-old Carol Henderson, from Gateshead in northeast England, said Saturday. "They looked completely amazed, left the car doors open and fled." Ms. Henderson, 5 ft (1.5 m) tall and weighing 13 stone (83 kg), said: "By this time lights were on in houses and neighbours were looking out wondering what was happening, and it was only then I remembered I was completely starkers (naked)."

Art centre staff mistakenly dumps jelly exhibit

BIRMINGHAM, England (R) — An art student's exhibit of red jellies on plates arranged in an arc was mistaken for leftovers from an exhibition party and dumped in a bin. Ceri Davies, 28, said her work, "Piece De Resistance," involving three dozen jellies and 17 plates on show at the midlands art centre in Birmingham, central England, was meant to decay and give a visual metaphor for the mortality of all flesh. But on the fourth day of the exhibition, a duty officer in charge of the building, thinking someone had arranged the plates at the end of a party, saw the jellies were going off and scraped them from the plates into a bin. "I couldn't believe my eyes," Ms. Davies told the Daily Telegraph newspaper. "Months of hard work had just gone to waste. I was quite horrified." A spokeswoman for the centre said: "It was a genuine mistake and the person is very sorry."

British police raid 'speed' laboratory

LONDON (R) — British police were interrogating 11 people after a major drugs bust, a raid on a laboratory capable of producing amphetamines worth £70 million (\$105 million). The laboratory, in the loft of an isolated bungalow at Meopham in southeast England, had tonnes of chemicals to produce one tonne of 70 per cent pure "speed" which would be "cut" to about two per cent for the street, police said. "The operation has dealt a severe blow to the trade in amphetamines in Britain," said Detective Superintendent Ray Husey of the South East Regional Crime Squad. A police spokesman said the laboratory was "potentially one of the biggest illegal drug factories ever uncovered in Britain."

Drug-addicted Thai elephants to get help

BANGKOK (AFP) — Help is at hand for drug-addicted Thai elephants, kept on a high of amphetamines by their mahouts to make them work harder, the Bangkok Post reported. Forestry officials in northern Thailand are setting up an elephant hospital for drug-addicted and injured jumbos, the paper said. The Forest Industry Organisation is currently looking after more than 30 elephants, some of which have become addicted to amphetamines fed to them by their mahouts to make them work longer hours, the paper said. The drug-addicted elephants, as well as others which have been injured, will be guaranteed the best medical treatment at the new hospital, a senior forestry official said. Forestry officials are finding increasing numbers of elephants in their care as illegal logging operations are gradually broken up and the animals confiscated from the log poachers.

China, plagued by railway thefts, cracks down

PEKING (R) — China's railway police have their hands full as robberies aboard trains run rampant and thieves plunder tracks and equipment, the China Daily said. Authorities are targeting some 10,000 kilometres of railway hardest hit by crime. "Robbers reportedly ran rampant in these sections," the newspaper said. Pilfering of railway equipment was a particular headache. "Recent price hikes have driven many farmers along railway lines to steal supplementary tracks, splints and screws for underground sale," the newspaper said. Thieves have set up furnaces along railway lines to melt down the steel. The thefts have had serious consequences. In December a train in northern China derailed because someone stole a splint from the track, the newspaper said. Local militia have been organised to boost police patrols.



Spain wins 2nd Federation Cup title

FRANKFURT (R) — Former French Open champion Arantza Sanchez-Vicario ran for every point to help top seeds Spain clinch victory over Australia in the Federation Cup final Sunday.

Sanchez, a member of the Spanish team who won the cup in 1991, beat Nicole Provis 6-2, 6-3 and sealed a 2-0 winning lead in the best-of-three rubbers final.

Conchita Martinez, ranked sixth in the world, gave Spain the ideal start in the first rubber with a 6-0, 6-2 victory over Michelle Jaggard-Lai which took just 62 minutes.

Provis, who beat world number one Steffi Graf when the Australians ousted defending champions Germany in the first round, could not find a way to break down the battling Sanchez, the world number three.

Australia's hopes of winning

their first title since 1974 melted in the hot Frankfurt sun. They were simply outplayed by Martinez and Sanchez, whose strong baseline game was perfect for the slow clay courts.

The Spaniards needed just over two hours to clinch their victory. Martinez's power was too much for Jaggard-Lai, ranked 91st in the world. The Australian could not counter Martinez's strong serve and powerful forehand and took only two games in the match.

Sanchez needed just 61 minutes to finish off Provis. The Spaniard broke service as early as the third game and took the first set after 25 minutes.

Even when Provis broke to take a 2-0 lead in the second set, Sanchez kept her cool.

The Spaniard scurried for every point and broke back in the

next game when Provis double-faulted. She then made the crucial break to lead 4-3.

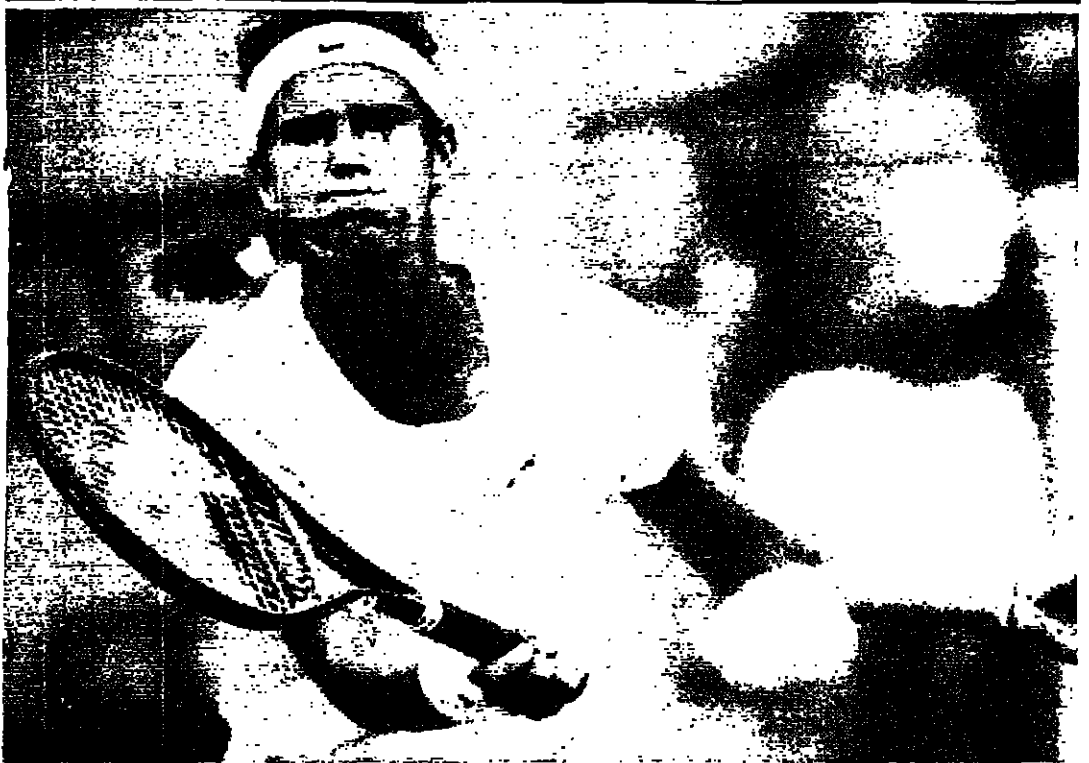
"She played well in the second set but I got aggressive," said Sanchez.

"I'm delighted we've done it. Australia are a good team but we were very strong. There is going to be a big party tonight."

Australia can be happy with their first appearance in the final of the most prestigious tournament in women's tennis since 1984 when they lost to Czechoslovakia.

The Australians were expected to start packing their bags after their first round match with Germany.

But they beat the Germans 2-1 and then went on to dispose of Denmark, Finland and Argentina on their way to the final.



Mary Joe Fernandez

Fernandez, Capriati reach final

MAHWAH, New Jersey (R) — Mary Joe Fernandez beat Mary Pierce of France in a marathon semifinal Saturday night to join fellow American Jennifer Capriati in the final of the 150,000 Pathmark Women's Tennis Tournament.

The top-seeded Fernandez, who missed converting a match point in the 12th game of the second set, earned a 6-3 6-7 (4-7) 6-4 decision in a two hour 48 minute battle with Pierce.

Fernandez, who is 4-0 against the French star, is ranked number seven and Pierce, seeded fourth, is 14th in the world.

The second-seeded Capriati, ranked number nine, reached the final here for the fourth straight time with a 6-2 6-4 triumph over fifth-seeded rookie professional Lisa Raymond of the United States.

The 17-year-old Capriati won the Pathmark title in 1991 against Monica Seles. She lost in 1990 to Steffi Graf and 1992 to Seles.

"This was a tough battle all the way," said Fernandez, who edged Pierce 7-6 7-6 this year at the Italian Open.

"She was really into the match

and surprised me by serving and volleying a few times."

The players exchanged service breaks at the start of the third set. Fernandez got the decisive break in the fifth game, winning at love on a double fault.

"I realised that I was just giving away the match at 3-0 in the second set and decided to try to keep the ball in play more," said the hard-hitting Pierce, who dropped her father Jim as her coach this week to end a stormy relationship.

Pierce gave Fernandez, runner-up to Graf at the French Open last month, quite a struggle the rest of the way.

The 50th-ranked Raymond turned pro two months ago after winning the U.S. collegiate title for the second straight year.

The 19-year-old was overpowered by Capriati's strong serves and power ground strokes in a rematch of a fourth-round meeting at Wimbledon where Raymond pushed Capriati to three sets.

Capriati survived two break points in the fourth game, holding with a backhand volley winner and the first of four aces.

That game ignited a five-game sprint that ran out the first set with Capriati taking 19 of the final 21 points.

"I played very well in the first set and there wasn't very much she could do," said Capriati, who broke through in the fifth game on a third successive forehand error by Raymond and in the fifth game with a backhand volley.

The second set went to 4-4 before Capriati got the decisive break in the ninth with a forehand scoop down the line off a drop shot by Raymond that left her vulnerable at the net.

"Jennifer played better this time than at Wimbledon," said Raymond. "She served great with a high percentage of first serves and was very aggressive."

Prost wins German Grand Prix

HOCKENHEIM, Germany (R) — Alain Prost won the German Grand Prix Sunday after his luckless Williams team mate Damon Hill suffered a blown tyre on the penultimate lap. Hill was leading comfortably and appeared to be heading for his first Grand Prix victory when his tyre shattered.

The British driver could only nurse his car back to the Williams team garage and had to settle for 15th place. Prost, who claimed his fourth win in succession and seventh of the season, crossed the line 16.664 seconds ahead of German Michael Schumacher in a Benetton.

The Frenchman's victory put him a commanding 27 points clear in the Drivers' Championship and extended his record total of Grand Prix wins to 51.

Briton Mark Blundell finished third in a Ligier to claim his best Grand Prix finish after resisting a strong late challenge from Ayrton Senna in a McLaren.

Italian Riccardo Patrese was fifth in the second Benetton and Austrian Gerhard Berger sixth in his Ferrari.

Briton Derek Warwick, who escaped almost unscathed when his footwork turned upside down after an accident in the morning warm-up, finished in 17th place.

Hill made a perfect start while Prost got off to a poor one and was involved in a wheel touching just with Senna on the opening lap which resulted in the Brazilian spinning off.

Prost was also called in for a stop-go penalty as Senna fought his way back through the field.

Hill led for all but two laps until wretched luck struck with his tyre.

He had a 13-second lead towards the end of lap 43 when his tyre blew.

Bad luck also hit Hill in the British Grand Prix at Silverstone earlier this month when he had to retire with a blown engine after leading for 41 of the 59 laps.

Prost has 77 points in the championship table and Senna 50.

Prost said he was upset at receiving a penalty of 10 seconds for driving through the first chicane.

"I was more than surprised by the 10-second penalty," he said. "In fact, I think it was a scandal because we talked about that chicane this morning in the drivers' briefing and I went straight just to avoid an accident with Martin Brundle."

Indurain wins Tour de France

PARIS (AFP) — Tour de France triple winner Miguel Indurain turned the final stage of this year's into a lengthy lap of honour — before warning his rivals there may be more to come.

The Spaniard eased to his third triumph in a row on the Champs Elysees in Paris after the gruelling 3,729km event.

Afterwards he rejected suggestions of his invincibility, arguing: "I'm not from outer space. Like all the riders in the peloton, I'm finishing the Tour tired, after throwing all my energy into the battle."

But then he added he ominously: "I like the French saying, 'appetite comes from eating.' The Tour is my favourite race and remains my priority."

Indurain's appetite for success is reflected in his unique record in cycling's two most important tours. He now boasts three consecutive Tours de France wins as well as two in a row in the Tour of Italy in 1992 and 1993.

It was also clear in the way he shredded this year's field, with only runner-up Tony Rominger of Switzerland to put up a fight.

Sunday's finale, won by sprinter Djamolidine Abdoujaparov of Uzbekistan in a mass finish after the 197km 20th stage from Viry-Châtillon, was no more than an end-of-tour celebration, most of the riders content to soak up the atmosphere of cycling's blue ribbon race before their final

thrash up and down the picturesque final stretch.

Frederic Moncassin of France came second and Italian Stefano Colagrande third as Indurain and Rominger cautiously avoided any chance of a final mass pile-up by staying well clear of the leading group during the final eight laps up and down the Champs Elysees.

That there had been any drama to the 1993 event at all was largely due to Rominger, whose two gutsy stage wins in the Alps and a shock victory in Saturday's time trial — Indurain's favourite discipline — saved the event from anti-climax.

He had been blighted by bad luck early on, losing two teammates before the early team time trial and later puncturing in both major solo rides.

But it was left to the 32-year-old double winner of the Tour of Spain to take on Indurain alone after highly-rated Italians Gianni Bugno and Claudio Chiappucci and Alex Zülle of Switzerland failed to mount a serious challenge.

Indurain admitted, despite the excellent performances of Zanon Jaskula of Poland, Colombia Alvaro Mejia and Dane Bjorn Rees — who were third, fourth and fifth overall — that Rominger had been the only major threat.

"My real rival was Rominger. The Italians were not as good as

expected and the young riders like Zülle will be better next year, Rominger is an excellent rider who was stronger than me in the final time trial.

Pressed on his next target — which could include an attempt on the world hour record just beaten by England's Olympic pursuit champion Chris Boardman — Indurain went on: "Believe me, I may have a few secret ambitions, but I'm keeping them to myself."

Indurain's three victories bring him level with American Greg LeMond and match Frenchman Louison Boudet's record of winning three in a row in 1953, 1954 and 1955.

Rominger will be in little doubt that 29-year-old Indurain's biggest ambition will be a fourth Tour de France next year and then to match the record five wins held by Belgian Eddie Merckx and Bernard Hinault of France.

Rominger — perhaps reinforced by his compatriot Zülle — may be the only rider in his way, with this year's Tour seeming to mark the beginning of the end for the Italian challenge.

While Rominger is older than Chiappucci and Bugno, they may not share his undoubted enthusiasm after their latest disappointments.

Chiappucci, in the top three in the three previous tours, could only claim the consolation of a

single stage win this year, while Bugno, second in 1991 and third last year, did not even manage that.

Both, too, have been badly bruised by Indurain in their domestic Tour in Italy. Bugno winning three years ago before the Spaniard began his long run of dominance.

LeMond may also be a spent force. The American is facing an operation on a broken bone in his right wrist after a virus wrecked his season and forced him to miss the Tour this year.

The French hosts, too, had little to cheer about. They have not had a Tour winner for a record eight years and only Pascal Lino's stage win this time dulled the pain.

The injury will mean the American missing the World Championships this year but Legay confirmed he would be back next season.

He said: "It's a big blow for him because he was coming back well."

"Tests on the virus showed his immune system had been affected by an allergy to pollen. He had recovered after rest and was back in training."

"Greg will continue with us next season. That's what he wants and what we want. If he hasn't been getting results, it's because he was ill. He deserves a better end to his career."

Accused bribes official quits Marseille

PARIS (AFP) — Olympique Marseille (OM) General Manager Jean-Pierre Bernes resigned Sunday saying he wanted to help save the club from "destruction" over bribery accusations made against him.

Bernes, who has been charged with corruption, said in a letter of resignation: "Olympique Marseille cannot remain a hostage to those who, through me, want above all the destruction of the club."

The resignation of Marseille President Bernard Tapie's right hand man came the morning after he was given a hero's welcome by 40,000 defiant supporters at the club's Velodrome Stadium.

Bernes, conditionally released from prison custody Thursday, ran a lap of honour and blew kisses to the crowd. Some fans held up an 80 metre banner proclaiming, "Fiers d'être Marseillais" (Proud to be Marseillais).

Journalists from both state

television channels, France-2 and France-3 were barred from entering the ground and a journalist from France-2 suffered a head injury after being attacked outside.

France-3 is pressing charges against Tapie after he allegedly attacked a camera crew trying to film him with Bernes on his yacht Thursday, and threw a camera into the sea.

The journalists union and the French league both condemned the exclusion which they said breached press freedom laws.

Bernes, who is accused of orchestrating an attempt to bribe three Valenciennes players to throw a match against Marseille on May 20, said ill-health was also a factor in his stepping down.

He spent most of his three weeks in custody in a prison hospital being treated for depression.

Jorge Burruchaga, one of the three Valenciennes players

approached, said in an interview with the Journal du Dimanche that he had been able to positively establish it was Bernes who had offered him a bribe in a telephone conversation.

Bernes said Friday none of the Valenciennes players could be sure to have actually spoken to him.

But Burruchaga, a member of Argentina's 1986 World Cup winning team said: "Of course I spoke to Bernes on the telephone. To make sure it was really him, I said: 'You're ringing me now but in 1986 you didn't thank me for giving you the telephone number of Diego Maradona's manager.' (Marcelle tried to sign Maradona from Italian club Napoli in 1988).

"We were the only ones to know about that. He even asked me if I was still annoyed about it. That's definite proof that it was him."

"He asked me to take my foot off the gas, to let OM win," said Burruchaga.

The examining magistrate in the bribery case is due to interview former Valenciennes coach Boro Primorac this week. Primorac has accused Tapie of asking him to carry the can for the affair.

The French league will also begin hearings of the Valenciennes players Burruchaga and Christophe Robert and Marseille's Jean-Jacques Eydelie. Eydelie says he acted as a middleman between Bernes and the Valenciennes players.

Basile Boli, whose goal won the European Cup for Marseille six days after the Valenciennes

match, got the champions off to a winning start with the only goal of the game against Lens Saturday.

But it was an unhappy night for rivals Paris Saint Germain, who could still take Marseille's place in this year's Champions Cup if the bribery allegations are proven.

The side from the capital were beaten 1-0 in Bordeaux and 36 of their supporters spent the night in police cells after going on a rampage in the city.

A France-3 television team filming in the Bordeaux stadium was also attacked and the camera they were using destroyed. Two of the supporters were still in custody Sunday evening.

Jacques Glassmann, the Valenciennes player allegedly approached by Bernes and the one who blew the whistle on the whole affair, has left out of the Valenciennes team that played Nice Saturday.

"Given the threats he received it was best he did not play yesterday," Valenciennes President Michel Coencas, said Sunday.

Glassmann, who is expected to return to the side next weekend, said he was disappointed by the decision.

"It's true there have been a lot of threatening letters and telephone calls to the club. I have received them at my home. But giving in to blackmail is not a good thing — that shows those who do it they have the means to put pressure on the club."

"If this decision was taken to protect the other players, I agree, if it was uniquely to protect me, I don't."

Kawasaki wins Suzuka race

SUZUKA, Japan (AFP) — Scott Russell and Arton Slight scored Kawasaki's first win at the Suzuka Eight Hour race Sunday.

The U.S.-New Zealand pair patiently waited for Honda and Yamaha rivals to fall at the wayside. They took control from the 150th lap and finished with a comfortable one-lap winning margin. In eight hours 1min 13.713sec, they covered 207 laps on the 5.86 kilometre (3.64 mile) track.

"The other teams made mistakes that we didn't make and here we are," said Russell, the 1992 Superbike Daytona 200 champion.

Slight had been worried about a typhoon that hit the track overnight and the possibility that the Kawasaki would have to make more pit stops than the others.

"We were just lucky that the rain held off and the bike went perfectly all the day long. Everything worked really, really well."

The victory was the first for Kawasaki, the only one of the big four Japanese manufacturers not to have won at the 15-year-old Suzuka event.

Daytona 200 winner, Eddie Lawson of the United States had led from the 11th lap with Japanese teammate Satoshi Tsujimoto.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & YANHAN HUSSEIN
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NORTH
♠ 9 7 4
♥ K 3
♦ Q 10 9 6
♣ 6 5 3 2

WEST
♠ Q 8 6 2
♥ A 10 8 7 2
♦ 5 2
♣ J 4

EAST
♠ J 10 5
♥ Q 9 4
♦ K 7 3
♣ Q 10 9 8

SOUTH
♠ A K 3
♥ J 8 5
♦ A J 6 4
♣ A K 7

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♣ Pass Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Seven of ♣

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Mitterrand, Peres meet today

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres goes to Paris Monday for talks with President Francois Mitterrand and ministers in the new government, officials said Sunday. The trip, arranged at short notice, will include meetings for Mr. Peres with French counterpart Alain Juppe as well as a session with European Commission President Jacques Delors. Israel is trying to speed up renewal of a 1975 cooperation agreement with the European Community. Foreign ministry sources said the talks with French officials would centre on the peace process.

Taiwan, S. Korea call off restoration of ties

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan and South Korea, citing disagreement over key issues, Sunday cancelled the signing of a pact to restore unofficial ties broken off when Seoul switched recognition to rival Peking last August. "We have a broad consensus and understanding, but there are one or two key issues where opinions still differ," Taiwan's Vice Foreign Minister Fang Chin-Yen said on his return from Japan, where he flew on Saturday to sign the pact. "The two sides hope to reach an agreement soon on the basis of mutual understanding and pragmatism," Mr. Fang told reporters, adding that lower-level diplomats were continuing talks.

Indian troops kill Kashmiri rebel commander

SRINAGAR (R) — Indian paramilitary forces have shot dead a top pro-Pakistan guerrilla commander in Kashmir, police and Muslim separatists said Sunday. A police spokesman said Nissar Ahmed Mir, a field commander of the Hezb-ul-Mujahadeen, was killed Saturday shortly before midnight in a clash with India's Border Security Force (BSF) on the outskirts of Srinagar. But Hezb-ul-Mujahadeen officials said Mir, widely known as Zulkarnain, was killed in cold blood after BSF troops stormed a house where he was resting on doctor's orders. They said the unarmed guerrilla chief was taken some way from the house in Shahama village and shot at point blank range in what one official called an "inhuman and cowardly" act. Kashmir's police Director-General Balwinder Singh Bedi said Mir's death was a major success in India's crackdown on the uprising in the mountainous north Indian state.

Mexico intercepts 57 undocumented Chinese

MEXICO CITY (R) — Mexican authorities have intercepted 57 undocumented Chinese migrants travelling on a bus, the Interior Ministry said Saturday. The Chinese were handed over to immigration officials, who were transporting them to a centre of southern Mexico where they will be housed, fed and given medical treatment before being sent back to China, the ministry said in a statement. The migrants were aboard a bus in the city of Tepic in the western state of Nayarit when they were intercepted, the ministry said. Three Mexicans were also aboard the bus. A ministry spokesman said he had no information about how the Chinese arrived in Mexico or where they were headed.

Pope indicates abortion on agenda in U.S. visit

CASTEL GANDOLFO (R) — Pope John Paul Sunday indicated he would not shy away from the delicate issue of abortion during his trip to the United States next month. "In Denver, we are going to celebrate life, the value of life, the beauty and the joy of life," the Pope said during a homily delivered at the papal summer residence outside of Rome. "It is not possible that science can on the one hand save lives and then be an accomplice in their destruction," he said. The Pope is scheduled to spend four days in Denver, Colorado, next month to coincide with the Roman Catholic Church's World Youth Day. "The future of man depends much on a vast alliance for life and the youth are called to be on the front lines of this battle..." the Pope said. He is due to have his first meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton, an abortion rights supporter, in Denver.

Ethiopians hijack plane, surrender in Djibouti

DIJIBOUTI (R) — Two Ethiopian army officers, who hijacked an Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 757 while it was on a domestic flight, surrendered Sunday at Djibouti airport and released everyone on board unharmed, airport officials said. The plane, carrying 126 passengers and a crew of eight, was on a flight between Dire-Dawa and Addis Ababa. The official said all on board were freed after three and a half hours of negotiation between Djibouti officials and the hijackers. Airport officials said the only foreigner on the plane was a Dutch citizen. They said the hijackers, officers in the Ethiopian army aged 28 and 31, were under arrest.

U.N. says locusts destroy crops in Somalia

NAIROBI (R) — Somalia, its economy and agriculture destroyed by civil war and drought, has now been afflicted by crop-destroying locusts, U.N. radio said on Sunday. Thousands of square kilometres of vegetation in Sool, Sanaag and Togdheer regions in northern Somalia had been destroyed by the flying insects, the U.N. radio in Somalia, monitored in Nairobi, said. It said the deputy chairman of the United Somali Party Adan Ahmad Ashare had issued an urgent appeal for food aid. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) recently reported widespread locust breeding in parts of Somalia — an area traditionally vulnerable to locust infestation, where unrest has hampered anti-locust inspection work by the FAO. The FAO has appealed for additional funds to support action against breeding locusts in the hope of killing enough of the insects at the breeding stage to prevent them from forming large swarms of mature locusts. If the locusts are not destroyed in the breeding stage they will endanger vast areas of Africa, where the swarming insects can destroy growing crops within hours, experts say.

Pakistani premier leaves for U.S.

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan's interim Prime Minister Moeen Qureshi left Sunday for the United States on a five-day private visit, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said. Mr. Qureshi, 63, who had a brief stopover in Karachi, will have a medical check-up in the United States. During his stay he may also have meetings with some U.S. officials. The former World Bank official was appointed caretaker prime minister on July 18 under an army-brokered political settlement that led to the exit of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and his rival Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, paving way for legislative elections in October.

Mississippi expected to crest again

ST. LOUIS, Missouri (AFP) — The massive Mississippi swelled with new rainstorms Saturday as the bodies of two more flood victims were found near here, officials said. The death toll rose to 41 with the discovery of the bodies of a counsellor and youth from the St. Joseph's Home for Boys. The bodies of the counsellors and four boys were found in a cave near the Mississippi after they were apparently caught in a flash flood. A fifth boy was found cold and frightened but otherwise healthy. Sandbaggers worked late Saturday to strengthen levees protecting St. Louis.

Indian premier faces no-confidence vote

NEW DELHI (AFP) — The fate of Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's two-year-old government hinges on minor opposition parties as parliament reconvenes Monday with two no-confidence motions on the agenda. The ruling Congress (I) Party and its allies command 263 MPs in the lower house against the fragmented opposition's 264, after six opposition MPs said they would abstain from the vote expected this week. Congress remained confident Sunday that it would survive the determined opposition challenge, but party sources admitted they were keeping their fingers crossed. Both the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) — the main opposition party — and a centrist-leftist alliance have said they will move separate no-confidence motions to vote out the government. The Hindu-revivalist BJP and the National Front and Left Front alliance have some 220 MPs between them in the 545-seat lower house. The rest of the opposition consists of minor groups whose strength ranges from a solitary MP to the 20



Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin (second from left) is received upon his arrival here Sunday by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan (left) and Turkish Ambassador to Jordan Mehmet Irtuncel (Petra photo)

Turkish minister begins visit restating support for Arabs

Talks focus on peace process, bilateral ties

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin began a three-day official visit to Jordan saying his country hoped to advance the Middle East peace process and reaffirming Ankara's support for the Palestinian quest for an independent state. Mr. Cetin, paying the first official visit to Jordan by a Turkish foreign minister in 13 years, said the main focus for his talks with Jordanian leaders would be bilateral relations, but the 21-month-old Arab-Israeli peace process was equally important. The Turkish minister, who will leave for Israel on Tuesday, said he would tell his Israeli interlocutors that "without accepting the right of the Palestinians, including the right to an independent state, lasting peace cannot come."

Mr. Cetin paid tribute to Turkish-Jordanian relations as well as to the Kingdom's participation in the U.S.-backed Arab-Israeli peace talks which are stalled over basic Israeli-Palestinian differences over the nature of a peace settlement.

Describing Ankara's ties with Amman as "historical," he said: "We know each other very well and we are close to each other and we have no problems between us." The minister said his talks here would aim at strengthening relations and cooperation in various fields.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan, who received Mr. Cetin upon arrival at Marka Airport aboard a C-130 military transport plane, also expressed hope that the Turkish minister's visit would help strengthen relations.

"Jordan has traditionally close political, economic and cultural relations with Turkey," Mr. Hassan told reporters as he waited for Mr. Cetin to arrive. "The visit of the Turkish foreign minister will provide an opportunity to expand these relations," he added. "We and the delegation accompanying the minister will do everything we can to make the visit a success."

"Turkey is a country with weight in the region and has an important role to play in the peace process," the minister said. Mr. Cetin, who is accompanied by his wife and a high-ranking Foreign Ministry delegation, noted that Jordan is a key player in the peace negotiations with Israel.

"Jordan is playing an important role in the peace process, and in... stability in the Middle East," he said.

Mr. Cetin held a round of formal talks with Mr. Hassan and Planning Minister Ziad Fariz shortly after his arrival. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the talks focused on bilateral relations, the Middle East peace process and the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Leading the Jordanian side to the talks, Mr. Hassan lauded Jordanian-Turkish relations. He briefed the Turkish side on the democratisation process in Jordan and the Kingdom's stands on public freedoms, political pluralism and human rights issues.

Mr. Hassan also dwelt on the latest developments in the peace process and Jordan's commitment to the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and the need to regain the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people on their national soil.

The Turkish minister lauded the leadership and courage of the role of His Majesty King Hussein and commended Jordan's principled stands, Petra said.

Following the talks, Mr. Hassan described the meeting as fruitful and positive, saying the two sides held similar views on most issues under discussion.

The two sides, he told Petra, affirmed their keenness to promote and bolster their relations and stressed the need to achieve peace in the Middle East on the basis of Security Council resolutions.

Petra said that during Mr. Cetin's talks with Mr. Fariz, the two sides stressed their keenness to enhance cooperation in economic fields through increasing the volume of trade, encouraging joint ventures and increasing their exports to foreign markets, the agency said.

In a joint statement following their meeting, Mr. Fariz and Mr. Cetin described the outcome of their talks as very positive.

Dr. Fariz said the meeting reviewed scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Turkey. Jordan, he said, stressed at the meeting the need to adjust the balance of trade exchange between the two countries, which is currently in favour of Turkey.

Jordan imported Turkish goods worth \$150 million while Turkish imports from the Kingdom totalled \$20 million in 1992.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, will meet Mr. Cetin over lunch Monday. Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali will hold talks with the Turkish minister Tuesday.

During his stay here, Mr. Cetin will visit a cemetery in Salt, where Turkish generals of the Ottoman era are buried. He will also place a wreath at the tomb of the late King Abdullah, founder of the Hashemite Kingdom.

The Turkish minister is also scheduled to visit the Beqaa refugee camp, Umm Kais on the Jordanian-Syrian-Israeli demarcation lines and the ancient city of Petra.

In his comments at the airport, Mr. Cetin said his visit to Israel, the first by a Turkish foreign minister to the Jewish state, did not signal any shift in Turkey's support for Arab causes.

If anything, he said, the fact that Turkey maintains close relations with the Arab World and has diplomatic ties with the Jewish state should help Ankara contribute to the peace process.

"My visit to Israel has nothing to do with our policy towards the Arab countries, towards the Palestinians," he said. "I will be able to talk to them (Israel) directly and explain to them once more our views about the peace process and stability in the M..."

He said he was not carrying any proposal to help break the logjam in the peace talks. "I am not going to Israel, a mediator," Turkey, which has abundant water resources, is seen by many as holding a possible key to resolving the water crisis facing other countries in the region.

Turkey is an active participant in the multilateral phase of the Arab-Israeli peace process, he noted. The multilateral talks cover regional issues such as arms control and security, water, refugees, the environment and economic cooperation.

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U.S. asks China to explain 'missile sales'

SINGAPORE (R) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher called for an explanation from his Chinese counterpart Sunday about reported sales of M-11 missiles to Pakistan, a senior American official said.

"There's disturbing evidence of (missile) shipments and that's why we need an explanation," the official said requesting anonymity.

In a meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, Mr. Christopher "laid out the seriousness of the issue and possible implications," the official said, but would not specify if the consequences would include economic sanctions against China.

Mr. Qian has denied allegations that China is selling missiles to Pakistan.

A sale of missiles or related components would violate the international Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), guidelines aimed at stemming the flow of ballistic missiles, the U.S. official said.

The official said Mr. Qian denied China had violated MTCR provisions and said the matter would be discussed in greater detail in Peking this week with a U.S. arms negotiator, Under-Secretary of State Lynn Davis.

In another aspect of the non-proliferation dialogue, Mr. Qian told Mr. Christopher that China was ready to consult with the United States and others on a Clinton administration plan for a comprehensive ban on nuclear weapons testing, the official said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wu Jianmin confirmed this separately and said China was ready to pledge "not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, not to use nuclear weapons against nuclear-free zones or against non-nuclear weapon states."

Mr. Christopher also called for Chinese cooperation on the question of alien smuggling, urging China to investigate smuggling activities and to treat returned migrants fairly.

The U.S. official called the 75-minute meeting with Mr. Qian "businesslike and positive."

U.S.-Russian talks

Mr. Christopher met separately with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev to discuss security issues, including peacekeeping in the former Yugoslavia and the troubled peace process in the Middle East.

"We almost always discuss Bosnia when we're together," Mr. Christopher said before his talks with Mr. Kozyrev. "We've been talking about it over the last several months and will continue to do so as we confront that tragic situation and try to find solutions."

Mr. Kozyrev, asked about offers of military support from Iran and other Muslim countries for Bosnian Muslims, said there was room for Muslim countries to participate but that it was important to avoid "any semblance of a religious crusade."

Mr. Kozyrev said he had discussed the possibility with Malaysia, adding that the United States and other countries on the U.N. Security Council would determine which countries are prepared to abide by the peacekeeping mandate of the United Nations.

Mr. Christopher, who is scheduled to travel to the Middle East next week, said he was concerned that the recent flare-up of violence along the Israel-Lebanon border would hurt the already troubled Middle East peace talks.

"The underlying problems are ones that need to be addressed and they can be best addressed through the peace process," Mr. Christopher said at a picture-taking session with Mr. Kozyrev. "We encourage restraint by the parties but also we continue to urge them to try to solve the problems and we'll do our part."

U.S.-Vietnam meeting

Mr. Christopher also met Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam Sunday, the first time foreign ministers of the two nations have met since the end of the Vietnam war in 1975.

Witnesses said a smiling Christopher held informal talks with Mr. Cam at a working dinner for 18 prospective members of an Asia-Pacific security forum proposed by the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN).

"Christopher was gesturing a lot and conversation seemed to be very amicable," a Reuters photographer covering the dinner said. "Christopher was all smiles."

Reporters were not allowed access to the dinner and the content of their conversation, conducted through an interpreter, was not immediately known.

Mr. Christopher and Mr. Cam were placed next to one another in the seating for the dinner.

Mr. Christopher is due to hold formal talks with Mr. Cam Tuesday but U.S. officials said this was not linked to normalising U.S.-Vietnam relations, but rather to press the U.S. need for more cooperation on tracing Vietnamese U.S. prisoners of war and servicemen missing in action (MIAs).

There are 2,253 cases of U.S. MIAs still pending.

The Christopher-Cam meetings take place at a time of warming relations between the two sides. Washington said this month it would no longer block multilateral loans to Vietnam and would station State Department staff in Hanoi.

"With the war over for 18 years already, we think the interests of the two countries could follow the general trend of cooperation and development," Mr. Cam told Reuters earlier.

"Sooner or later we will have normalisation. Sooner is better, for both nations and for peace and stability in the world as a whole."

Israel unleashes air power

Lebanon Army (SLA) has around 1,000 militiamen stationed in the region.

Around a dozen villagers on the edge of the "security zone" were targeted by Cobra helicopters which fired some 40 missiles, Sunday, sources said.

At least eight civilians were wounded when Israeli artillery lobbed around 30 shells on the town of Nabatiyyeh north of the zone.

Police said the attacks had sent many local people fleeing towards northern Lebanon.

Two members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine were wounded in another raid on the outskirts of the port city of Tyre.

Palestinian forces in Lebanon, including Fateh, said its fighters were being mobilised to counter any Israeli advance from the zone.

COLUMN

U.S. lawmaker: 'I have committed no crime'

WASHINGTON (R) — Representative Dan Rostenkowski, a powerful House chairman and crucial player in putting President Bill Clinton's budget plan through Congress, categorically denied that he embezzled House Post Office funds. "I want to make it absolutely clear that I have committed no crime and I have engaged in no illegal or unethical conduct," the Illinois Democrat said in a statement he read to reporters. He answered no questions. Mr. Rostenkowski has not been indicted on any criminal charge and, showing rare emotion, he said Saturday that allegations against him are "unfair, false and baseless."

As chairman of the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Rostenkowski is the chief House negotiator in House-Senate efforts to work out a compromise on getting Mr. Clinton's \$500 billion federal budget cutting plan through Congress.

He pledged that the allegations would not interfere with his efforts to work out a compromise version of President Clinton's economic plan. Mr. Rostenkowski was linked to the scandal this week when former House Postmaster Robert Rota pleaded guilty to helping congressmen, including an unnamed "Congressman A," embezzle postal funds.

Nearly \$21,000 worth of the vouchers listed in the charges against Mr. Rota as being used by Congressman A to convert stamps to cash correspond to dates, amounts and descriptions to vouchers listed in House records from Mr. Rostenkowski's office. The House chairman accused some of his political opponents of trying to take advantage of the allegations against him and others of "trying to settle old scores."

Deng is still writing but not appearing — report

PEKING (AFP) — Chinese paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, absent from public view for more than half a year, wrote an inscription for a new bridge in Shanghai, the People's Daily reported Sunday. The reports followed rumours here and in Hong Kong and Taiwan last week that Mr. Deng, who turns 89 on Aug. 22, was in poor health. The government denied the rumours, saying Mr. Deng's health was "fine."

The newspaper did not say when Mr. Deng penned the inscription, which was for the Yangpu Bridge linking downtown Shanghai to Mr. Deng's pet project, the Pudong development zone. Mr. Deng last appeared in public Jan. 22 to mark the Chinese New Year. He also turned up Oct. 19 for the end of the Communist Party's 14th congress, which fulfilled the patriarch's directive to adopt a market economy.

Fugitive killed in Thai jailbreak

BANGKOK (R) — Police shot dead an escapee after he and 16 fellow prisoners broke out of jail in northern Thailand, news reports said Sunday. Border police, army paratroopers, helicopters and tracker dogs were called in to catch the runaways after the Saturday morning breakout from Mae Hong Son provincial prison. The prisoners used axes, hammers and other tools to break through a wooden wall while threatening a guard with a chisel. The Nation newspaper reported: By Saturday afternoon, six of the fugitives had been recaptured. Another was shot dead after he injured a policeman with a knife. Most of the escapees were serving long sentences for drug offences. Police believed those still at large were heading towards the Burmese border about 20 kilometres away.

Man gives money to passersby after robbing bank

LAS VEGAS, Nevada (AFP) — Ronald Chroniak told passersby outside a bank to "have a good day" as he handed them \$100 bills he allegedly robbed from a teller inside. Police arrested Mr. Chroniak, 46, in front of the Bank of America branch Friday as he was giving out the bills. Around noon, a man walked into the bank and handed the teller a note demanding money. He then walked outside and began distributing the bills. "I was eating lunch in the bank courtyard when a man came up to me and gave me a \$100 bill," Alexander McNair said. "Where'd you get the money, man?" McNair asked. He said the man replied: "I just robbed the bank..." Have a nice day! Mr. Chroniak then went to a sandwich shop and an office building lobby where he was arrested. Police said most of the money was recovered.

Iraq accuses U.S. of seeking crisis

(Continued from page 1)

Iraqi sovereignty, Tehran did not dare carry out such aggression... as Iraq riposted to defend its citizens," said the daily Al Thawra.

"But since the Americans and gangs of agents and traitors became masters of the region, a state of chaos has ruled under the auspices of the American administration," it charged.

It was referring to the Western-imposed "no-fly" zone above the 36th Parallel which has been under anti-Baghdad, Iraqi Kurdish control following the end of the Gulf war in February 1991.

has done nothing to prevent Iraq's air force from attacking Kurdish positions, the paper said.

On Saturday, Iraqi Kurdish officials threatened to riposte militarily if Iran continues to target them (See page 2).

Iraqi Kurdish opposition groups, which formed a government not recognised by the international community, have been in control of northern Iraq since the end of the Gulf war in 1991.

Kurdish government officials were due to meet Sunday in northern Iraq with representatives of allied forces in the region to discuss the recent Iranian attacks, Kurdish sources said.